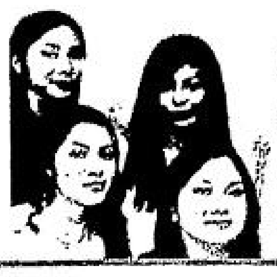
Tanong ng Bayan/ A24

Garcia at ibang heneral: Court-martial o civil trial?

Win a 21" TV! Text 2910 now!

■ Across / A18

Anti-gambling, anti-drugs radio man killed in Surigao del Sur



■ 2bU / E1

Makeover times seven for student writers

■ News / A2

Ombudsman files first of 148 graft raps vs Ramiscal

■ News / A4

US court gives OK to Ang extradition

RP world's top exporter now of nurses to US, UK

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES is now the world's top exporter of nurses, with many of them skipping the official recruitment for overseas Filipino workers, according to a study by the National Institutes of Health.

The study said the overseas employment of

RP WORLD'S/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, October 20, 2004 ★★ ~~62~~ 66 pages / 6 sections / vol. 19 / no. 315 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Why PMA is 'country's best business school'

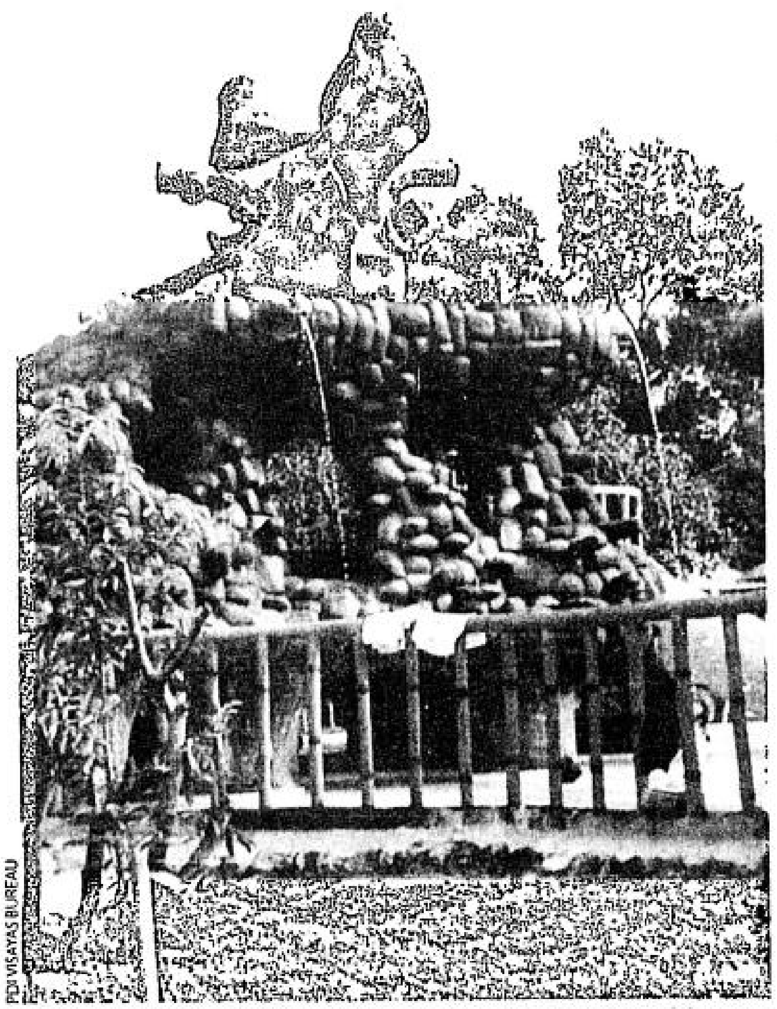
AT YESTERDAY'S hearing when the topic shifted to the Philippine Military Academy, Garcia appeared to turn weary and sad.

"Do you know the text [message] that's

PMA/ A4

PASOK TAYO SA SCHOOL NA ITO!

Noose tightens on Garcia



PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

THE BIGGEST asset of Gen. Carlos Garcia and family in his wife's hometown of Dumangas is IJT Katamnan Corp., which operates this 3-hectare mango farm resort that includes fishing lagoon and an aviary.

Hearing turns Garcia from lamb to tiger

By Christian V. Esguerra and Fe Zamora

THE MAN in the hot seat has been transformed from a lamb into a tiger, two of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's classmates at the Philippine Military Academy said yesterday.

Garcia's two "mistahs" in PMA Class of 1971, now both ranking officials of the Philippine National Police, noted the apparently startling transformation on Monday, the first time the general showed up at the House inquiry into alleged corruption in the Armed Forces.

"He has really changed," said one.

"He's no longer the silent, soft-spoken guy we'd always known him to be since our days at the academy," said the other.

Both officials, who asked not to be named, said Garcia had abandoned his "trademark" meekness for a defiant, even combative, stance.

But one said the transformation was but "natural and appropriate."

"The trial by publicity is just too much," the official told the INQUIRER. "If I were in his shoes, I would be just as combative. What's there to lose, anyway?"

According to the official, Garcia was probably fuming over the fact that lawmakers were questioning him on corruption when some of them were probably "just as corrupt, if not more [so]."

The official added of the former AFP comptroller: "I believe he's just a victim of circum-

HEARING/ A4

General's silence unravels as solons press probe

By Carlito Pablo and Fe Zamora

IN THE end, the right against self-incrimination that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia had so passionately invoked provided him no refuge.

Testifying yesterday at the resumption of House hearings on military corruption, the suspended former Armed Forces comptroller was trapped into admitting that he had at least $100,000 that his two sons attempted to bring undeclared into the United States in December 2003.

The money ended up being confiscated by US customs authorities.

Pressing Garcia with a series of seemingly innocent questions, House defense committee chair Rep. Roilo Golez (Kampi, Parañaque) also got him to admit the contents of a letter dated Jan. 12, 2004 that the general sent to the US Fines, Penalties and Forfeiture Office using his official AFP stationary.

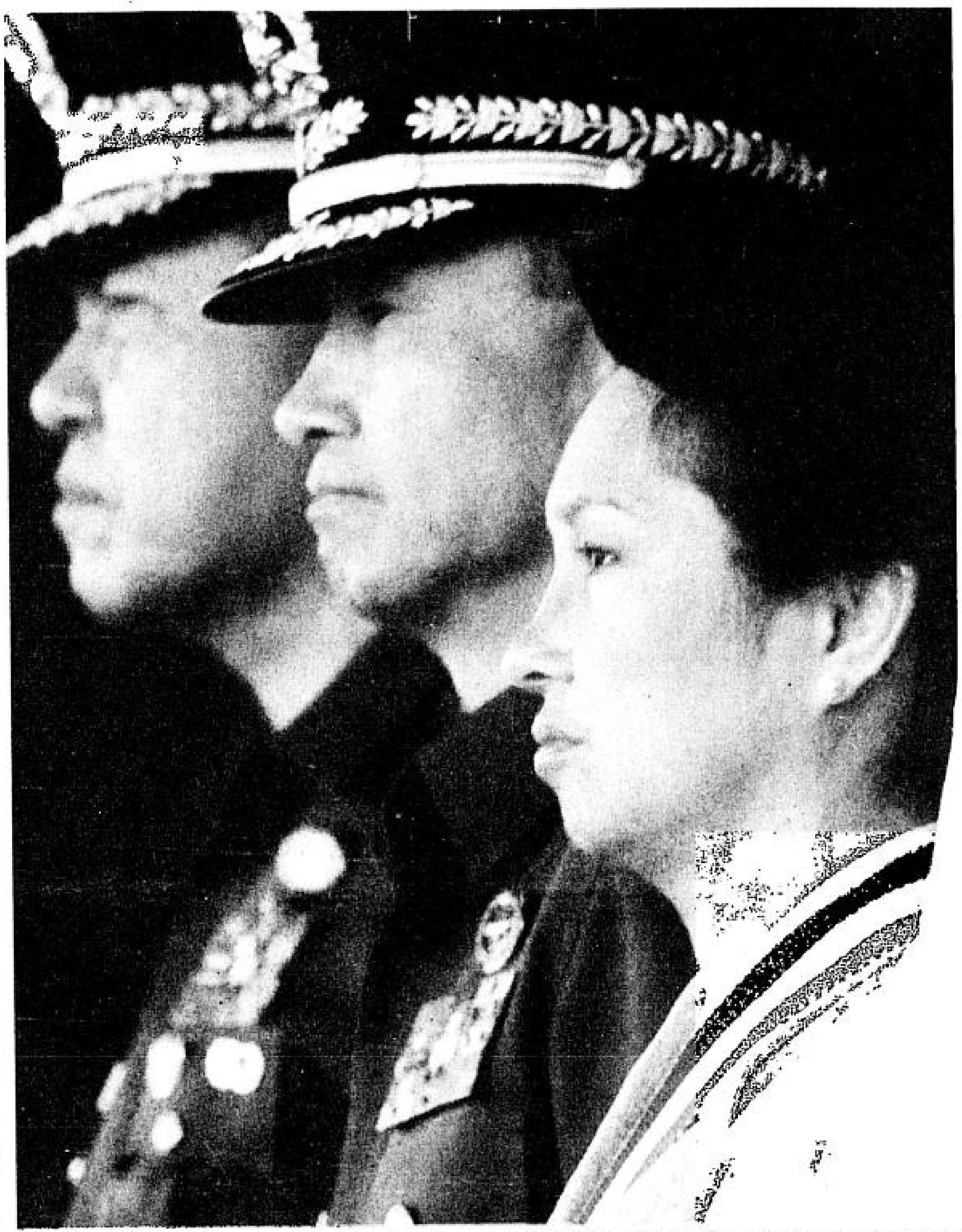
In the letter, Garcia pleaded for "kind understanding and a favorable disposition on the case of my sons."

Garcia made the series of admissions on the second day of his testimony at the joint hearings by the House committees on national defense and on banks on graft and corruption in the AFP.

At Monday's hearing, Garcia invoked his right to remain silent at least 20 times, triggering the suspicion that he was protecting other officers.

Three former AFP chiefs of staff rebuffed a request by Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) for them to submit to the hearing the records of their deposits and transactions with the Armed Forces and

NOOSE/ A22



PDI PHOTO

IN AND OUT: President Arroyo stands next to incoming AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Efren Abu (middle) who will succeed Gen. Narciso Abaya, in this photo taken in March which foreshadowed the change of command.

AFP CHIEF OF STAFF

Abu named to replace Abaya

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Alcuin Papa and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COMMANDER of government forces that quelled the Magdalo coup attempt last year has been named the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Lt. Gen. Efren Abu is set to replace AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, who is due to retire on Oct. 29 when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Abu, the commanding general of the Army, will assume the top post in the 117,000-strong AFP as the military establishment is being hounded by controversy after

ABU NAMED/ A4

Garcia's aide with ₱50M in assets sacked

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—An Army colonel accused of amassing P50 million worth of assets has gone the way of his former boss, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

Col. George Rabusa has been removed as operations officer of the Armed Forces' Central Command based in Cebu City in the wake of an investigation of alleged corruption in the Armed Forces, the military said yesterday.

Rabusa was the budget division chief of Garcia when the two-star general headed the Office of the AFP Comptroller. Garcia, suspended without pay and restricted to his quarters, is also facing investigation over allegations of unexplained wealth.

Rabusa is alleged to have acquired unexplained wealth worth P50 million consisting of pieces of real estate, vehicles and cash deposits. As a colonel, he has a gross income of P26,639.88 a month.

With deductions, he only receives about

GARCIA'S/ A4

WIGGLING to the Wiggles, a famous Australian children's band, which happens to be the favorite of formerly conjoined twins Clarence and Carl Aguirre. MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER

TWINS' FAVORITE

Aussie band sings for Carl, Clarence

NEW YORK—A doctor's appointment turned into a treat when formerly conjoined twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre were visited by their favorite band The Wiggles.

The twins' mother Arlene Aguirre brought the boys to the Children's Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) Medical Center on Friday for a series of appointments as preparations continued for their next reconstructive surgery with plastic surgeon Dr. David Staffenberg.

The Wiggles had just arrived after a long flight from Sydney. Jet-lagged members Murray Cook, Andrew Denton, Jeff Fatt, Greg Page and Anthony Field insisted on a visit to the hospital as part of their US tour.

The Wiggles, if you didn't know, is a famous Australian children's band, having sold more than 9 million home videos worldwide (6 million in the United States alone).

Three-year-old kids love them for their simple, catchy songs usually about food and animals.

Like the Teletubbies, the four members wear different colored shirts and sport varying personalities: Blue-man Anthony likes to eat, yellow-guy Greg performs magic, red-chap Murray makes faces and purple-dude Jeff takes naps.

The Wiggles gave a 20-minute show which was much appreciated by the 2-year-old twins, as well as the other young patients in the hospital. The group even toured four hospital floors to visit patients who were unable to attend their show.

The Australian band had CHAM patients dancing with their renditions of "Point Your Finger and Do The Twist," "Hot Potato,"

AUSSIE/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Northern Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/10/20/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Ramiscal faces charges

First of 148 graft raps filed in Sandiganbayan

By Armand N. Nocum

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday started filing charges against retired Brig. Gen. Jose S. Ramiscal in connection with the P195.86-million real estate scam involving funds of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Retirement and Separation Benefits Systems (AFP-RSBS).

Ramiscal, a former RSBS president, and three other RSBS officials were charged before the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court with 10 of 148 counts of estafa through falsification of public documents.

Also charged with estafa through falsification of public documents and for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were RSBS executives lawyers Meinrado Enrique and Manuel Satuito and Capt. Perfecto Quilicot.

The four were accused of overpricing the purchase of 148 lots by the RSBS in 1996.

The respondents not only allegedly failed to secure the RSBS funds, they also allegedly converted them for their own use, said the complaint filed by Ombudsman graft investigators and prosecutors Wendel E. Barreras-Sulit, John Turalba and Warlito Galisanao.

Ramiscal and the three officials violated the trust of the soldiers who contributed to the fund, it said.

"By its very nature, the system's funds are trust funds. Therefore, it was incumbent upon Ramiscal and other responsible officials to exercise utmost prudence and use the system's funds only in a conservative, secure manner in order to protect the soldiers' money," the Ombudsman said, quoting a report by a Senate panel that first investigated the matter in 1999.

Employing alleged "devious" gimmickry, the four RSBS officials reportedly bought 148 parcels of land in Calamba, Laguna; Tanauan, Batangas, and Iloilo City in 1996.

The RSBS then drafted two deeds of sale: the first, a "unilateral deed of sale" signed only by the landowners and priced at P28,226,090; and, second, "bilateral deed of sale" signed by the landowners and the RSBS represented by Ramiscal with a declared purchase price of P195,852,513.

The unilateral deed of sale was then used to register the property at the Register of Deeds in Tanauan, Batangas. The document was also used as the basis for the payment of the capital gains tax and transfer tax by the RSBS to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The bilateral deed of sale was not made public and were kept in the files of the RSBS. They were later used by Ramiscal's group to justify the payment of P195 million to the landowners.

Investigators noted that while official stamps and annotations appeared on the unilateral deed of sale, the same marks were totally absent from the other document.

What was anomalous was the disparity of the purchase price in the two deeds of sale which clearly showed the malicious design of the respondents, the Ombudsman said.

Ramiscal and the other RSBS officials are also facing several graft charges before the Sandiganbayan, one of which involved the sale of a P341.3-million property in Calamba, Laguna, which was found to have been overpriced by P91 million.

Ramiscal was ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan in 2000, but is out on P500,000 bail.

He is also accused of shortchanging tax payments for the purchase of a P37-million parcel of land in Batangas.

None of the respondents were available for comment.

'Why didn't cops chase Martinez killers?'

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Leila B. Salaverria

IN THE wake of the killing of Supt. Manolo Martinez in front of the Sta. Mesa police station he commanded one question begged to be asked and this was posed by Director Avelino Razon, National Capital Region Police Office chief.

Why did no one from the police station go after the assailants who pumped six bullets into Martinez as he got off his SUV?

Instead, the assailants and their lookouts managed to escape after commandeering a passing jeepney.

Razon, however, told the INQUIRER, "It's still being investigated. In the meantime, we won't sack anybody."

Razon said he also formed a task force composed of members of the NCRPO's Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division to assist the Western Police District in its investigation.

Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay placed the 115,000-strong force on full alert and ordered the deployment of more officers to checkpoints around Metro Manila and the provinces.

So far, Razon said, the authorities were looking into the angles that Martinez may have been killed by communist hit men or by enemies in the police force.

"We're not discounting anything," he said.

Martinez's wife Lucila expressed doubt his killers belonged to a rebel group, saying the firearms the assailants used indicated they may have been lawmen.

"They had an M-16, a .45 and a grenade. Who else has access to those but members of the police or the military?" Lucila Martinez said in an interview yesterday.

She said, however, that she was not aware of any enemies her husband may have had in the police force, saying only that jealousy among colleagues may have been the motive.

She said she had heard that her husband, a veteran Manila policeman, was one of the candidates to replace WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong when the latter is promoted.

"If he had an enemy, he would not have been driving himself," she said.

GMA to lead Leyte Gulf rites today

PALO, Leyte—President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to hark back to the idealized days of Philippine-American relations when she comes to commemorate the epic World War II Allied landings here 60 years ago that heralded the final collapse of the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines.

Around 1,000 aging survivors of that campaign will gather here for today's anniversary ceremony at the MacArthur Landing Memorial Park, where gold-painted statues of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and those who came ashore with him stand on a pool of water overlooking Leyte Gulf, a triumphant reminder of the last major invasion and sea battle of World War II.

The event also commemorates the special ties between the Philippines and the United States, a relationship that was recently frayed by the withdrawal of the Philippines' token contingent in Iraq to save the life of a Filipino hostage.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone will lead some 70 foreign dignitaries who are expected to converge here for the commemoration.

Two US battleships from Okinawa have arrived and the US soldiers on board are expected to join today's Liberation Parade.

Largely forgotten in the annals of popular military history, the Leyte landings that began on Oct. 20, 1944, saw around 160,000 US-led troops storm the beaches of the Leyte Gulf in the eastern corner of the Philippines.

Estimates of casualties varied, but the scale of the Japanese rout was vast. Japan recorded around 47,000 casualties compared to 3,500 Allied dead and 12,000 wounded.

The first landing site, code-named Red Beach, saw the triumphant return to Philippine soil of MacArthur, the commander of the US Armed Forces, who waded ashore and declared in a radio address to the nation: "People of the Philippines, I have returned!"

AFP, with a report from Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

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A Double Take on SKINCARE

What makes a successful center? What makes clients come again and again for their facial treatments? I believe no one can best answer these questions than the skincare center which has been around for more than two decades already -- Facial Care Centre.

Aivee Crawley, manager of Facial Care Centre Makati says, "The success of our center lies in state-of-the-art treatments, excellent service, and a continuous acquisition and introduction of the latest skincare breakthroughs. In fact, this year alone, we have introduced two new treatments which men and women will surely love."

Indeed, the new treatments are very promising. First is the **LightCure Acne Therapy** -- the latest technology for the treatment of acne or pimples. We've asked Dr. Isabelita Joya, Facial Care Centre's resident dermatologist, what the treatment is all about and how it works.

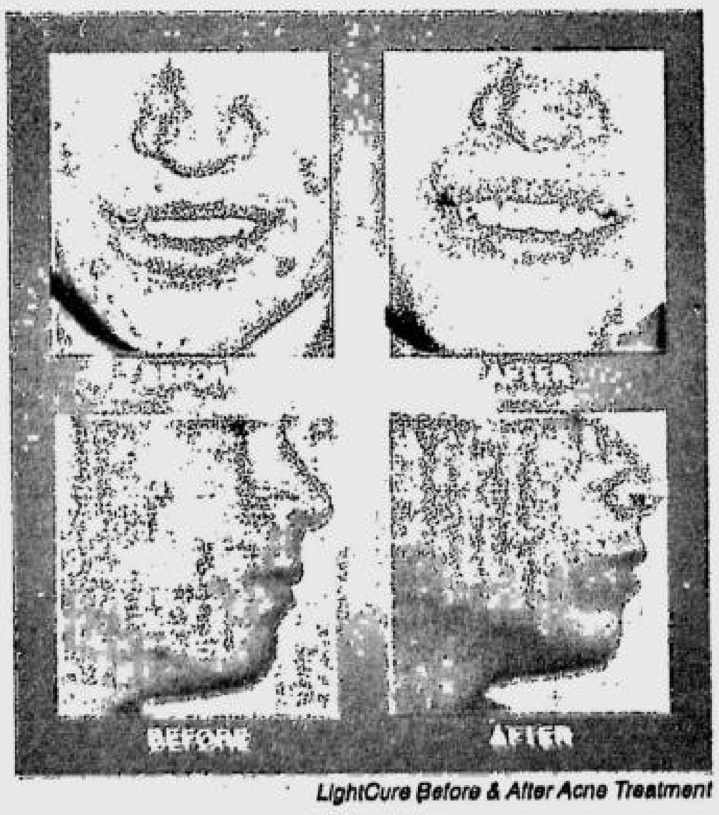
Aivee Crawley

Dr. Isabelita Joya

"**LightCure Acne Therapy** is a treatment for all types of acne (pimples) for all ages," says Dr. Joya. "It uses the emission of exact wavelengths of light at the most effective intensity for maximum photo-destruction of acne bacteria and reduction of skin inflammation. So there's no need to prick, take pills or have the injections just to treat acne."

"A special kind of bacteria called propionibacterium acnes (p. acnes) is responsible for the inflammation of acne lesions. LightCure works by using high-intensity blue-violet light that activates photosensitizers called porphyrins, produced by these bacteria in the sebaceous glands. When porphyrins are activated by the high-intensity of light, they start a chemical reaction that produces peroxides, which in turn, selectively destroys the p. acnes bacteria, without harming surrounding tissues," she further explains.

LightCure Treatment



LightCure Before & After Acne Treatment

Asked how safe the treatment is, Dr. Joya confidently says, "LightCure is among the safest skin treatments available because the light emitted is UV-free, natural and not harmful at all. It has no side effects, no risks of burns or pigmentation changes, and is FDA-approved."

We've also learned that compared to other treatments, LightCure is way ahead. It produces results up to 3 times faster than any other acne treatment -- without disruption to your lifestyle. An additional benefit, LightCure Acne Therapy can treat acne on any part of your body and has long-lasting preventive effect.

Already proven effective by Facial Care Centre's clients, LightCure Acne Therapy is indeed the real solution to your persistent acne problems.

The other treatment recently introduced by Facial Care Centre is the **Vita Spa Facial Treatment.** This time, Aivee Crawley is the one who talked to us about this new treatment.

"Vita Spa is an experience for the senses...the ultimate indulgence," according to Aivee. "As the name implies, it makes use of essential vitamins that are really good for your skin. Vita Spa is composed of 2 treatments: **Vita A.C.E. and Vita Velvet,** which give you the relaxing feeling of a spa treatment."

"**Vita A.C.E.** is a cooling, refreshing treatment that utilizes the benefits of vitamins A, C, and E in highly concentrated form, to enhance the skin's resistance to various elements and replenish vital moisture that leaves your skin with a wonderful glow.

"**Vita Velvet**, on the other hand, is a luxurious treatment that combines the benefits of an age-defying facial and a rejuvenating massage. It deep-cleanses, energizes and reduces visible ageing signs, reviving the elasticity and suppleness of your skin through a pampering massage that ensures its benefits and has a relaxing effect on your senses. Vita Velvet is definitely an indulgence that's beyond spa."

An instant favorite of Facial Care Centre clients, everyone really appreciates the many benefits they get from Vita Spa.

One very satisfied client, model **Patty Betita**, has this to say, "I love it! It's very refreshing...the massage was so relaxing...and the mask was my favorite part because it was so cold and soothing, I actually slept during the treatment. Afterwards, my skin felt so fresh and smooth like a baby's skin. It really felt so good, I told myself, I really love this treatment."

RX93.1 disc jockey **Delamar** adds, "I like it! It's cold and relaxing and it seems that the effect lasts longer on me. It's been exactly one week since I tried the treatment and my skin still feels just as smooth as when I had it seven days ago. I think the name Vita Velvet sums up what the treatment promises -- a vibrant, lively smoothness!"

Makeup artist **Barbi Chan** couldn't agree more, "It's very, very relaxing...and I love the smell. It's very citrusy. I guess it's the whole ritual that relaxes you. From the massage...to the very cold mask...you really have to set aside an hour-and-a-half to get the full benefit. After the treatment, my skin felt firm...my pores tightened...and during the whole day, my skin was dewy and glowing. I didn't even put makeup on because my face already looked radiant!"

Facial Care Centre Clients on Vita Spa

"I really love this treatment."

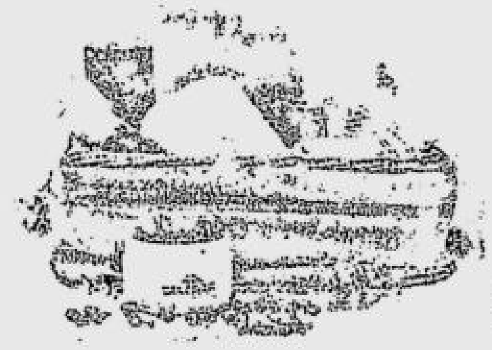
- Patty Betita

"It's been exactly one week since I tried the treatment and my skin still feels just as smooth as when I had it seven days ago."

- Delamar

"I didn't even put makeup on because my face already looked radiant!

- Barbi Chan


Vita Spa Facial Treatment Products

22 years of unparalleled skincare expertise -- constantly bringing in the latest technological breakthroughs and treating clients to the ultimate skin pampering performed only by seasoned therapists -- truly sets Facial Care Centre apart from other skincare clinics and salons. Countless women (and men) attest to this professionalism, including celebrities, businesswomen, homemakers, and many others from different walks of life. And this October, as Facial Care Centre celebrates its 22nd anniversary, everyone would surely be excited to know that they're giving away up to **40% discount** the whole month.

Now that's definitely something to look forward to!

To know more about Facial Care Centre's professional skincare service or to schedule your FREE consultation, call 892-SKIN (7546).

Garcia's aide with ₱50M in assets sacked

From page A1

P5,000, according to his pay slips submitted to the Ombudsman.

The documents showed that Rabusa had a P10-million savings deposit with the AFP Savings and Loans Association Inc.; houses in Sta. Ana, Manila; in Better Living, Parañaque, and at the AFP Officers' Village Association Incorporated (AFPOVAI) in Fort Bonifacio, Makati; and seven vehicles registered under his name, his wife Debbie's name and those of other relatives.

"He (Rabusa) will be placed and assigned in GHQ (general headquarters) to give him time to shed light on the alleged corruption issue," Centcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam said yesterday. Omandam said the command received the directive on Rabusa's relief on Oct. 14.

Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, AFP deputy chief of staff and concurrent spokesperson, confirmed Rabusa's relief.

"The hierarchy of the AFP decided to relieve him from Central Command so that he will be available for any congressional inquiries," Adan said.

Legal technicalities

Rabusa denied any wrongdoing in a phone interview with the Inquirer and said he would welcome the reopening of the investigation into his alleged ill-gotten wealth case.

He said he was cleared by the Armed Forces' Ombudsman the first time he was investigated in 2002 and he was confident he would be cleared again.

A lawyer at the AFP Ombudsman said that Rabusa was investigated in connection with a graft complaint filed in 2002. The lawyer said the case was set aside last year because of "legal technicalities" but would be revived "anytime now."

Omandam said he could not comment on matters involving Rabusa's assets as the colonel was only assigned to Centcom early this year. But he said Rabusa should be given the chance to explain his side.

Rabusa headed the 43rd Infantry Battalion based in Sogod, Southern Leyte, before he was transferred to Centcom as chief of operations.

During his stint in Southern Leyte, he was credited with clearing the province of its insurgency problem. He also spearheaded rescue operations during the Panaon Island landslides in December 2003 that claimed over 100 lives.

Leyte's adopted son

For his efforts, the Southern Leyte provincial government and the Maasin city government separately declared Rabusa an adopted son of Southern Leyte and Maasin City.

Omandam confirmed that Centcom had received both verbal and written orders from AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya for all military units to be on alert against groups that might exploit the corruption scandal in the military.

"The members of the AFP are enjoined to be very alert and vigilant this time because of the controversy arising from [the investigation] ... because this may be exploited by some groups that (would want) to destroy the AFP," Omandam said, recalling the gist of the order.

Coup talk squelched

Asked what groups he was referring to, Omandam mentioned the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Omandam stressed there was no truth to reports that a coup might happen, saying personnel at Centcom were not demoralized by the corruption controversy.

"We have not changed our attitude towards work, although everyday we can read in the papers the negative issue against the military," he added.

Correction

ON THE FRONT page of the Oct. 17 issue, the lead paragraph of the banner story—"Garcia took P44M to US—misstated the peso equivalent of the $785,630 that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his family had allegedly transferred to the United States in the past 11 years. The correct figure is P43,995,280—not P43,995,280 million.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

US court gives OK to Ang extradition

By TJ Burgonio

ATONG ANG: "Probable cause" for plunder

FINDING "probable cause" that Charlie "Atong" Ang had committed the crime of plunder, a United States district judge ruled that Ang, a crony and co-accused of jailed President Joseph Estrada, be extradited to the Philippines.

Judge Lawrence R. Leavitt of the US District Court of Nevada issued the ruling on Oct. 14. The information was released by the United States Embassy yesterday.

Leavitt based his ruling on the testimony of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson which he found to be "reliable and admissible in extradition hearings as statements against penal interest."

He said Singson's testimony clearly placed Ang "in the middle of the transaction" and that he had "participated" in Estrada's alleged diversion of P130 million in tax money for the latter's personal use in August 1998.

"The court finds that there is probable cause to believe that Ang committed the crime of plunder," Leavitt said in his ruling.

Ang has until Nov. 8 to file evidence supporting his defense against extradition. The US government must file its response not later than Nov. 19.

Leavitt said that while there were slight discrepancies in Singson's testimony, like the number of bags of money, these did not relate to the essential facts.

He said the bank records and other documents tended to corroborate Singson's testimony and "point to Ang's involvement."

The judge also said Singson's testimony on Ang's participation in the "jueteng scheme" with Singson and Estrada "was plausible."

He said Ang's characterization of the testimony as false was "not supported by the record."

"The ruling is another example of the ongoing RP-US cooperation in law enforcement," the US Embassy said in a statement.

Hearing turns Garcia from lamb to tiger

From page A1

HOLDING his head high or low was just about all Gen. Carlos Garcia could do during the marathon House hearing on Tuesday on his alleged graft and corrupt practices.

stances. Yes, he made a lot of money. But nobody can say he did that exclusively. Higher ranking military officials might have stolen more. How come he's the lone focus of this controversy?"

Probably in Garcia's mind, the official theorized, "the entire government should be on trial because corruption has been going on since time immemorial."

Garcia, who is being grilled by members of the House committees on defense and on banks for his questionable assets here and abroad, has maintained a stoic stance with hardly a trace of guilt or embarrassment.

When not answering questions from lawmakers, he kept his eyes downcast. On at least four occasions, he looked up to contemplate the ceiling.

At one point on Monday, the embattled general who had never been in combat in all his 33 years in the military flashed his warrior side when he rejected a suggestion that he serve as a state witness.

"I have nothing to testify," he flatly said in response to a question from Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano.

But one of Garcia's ex-classmates said another possible reason for his tough demeanor was the support he was probably enjoying from a good number of military officers.

"Perhaps the senior officers' corps is giving him the toughness to stand his ground against these congressmen," the classmate said.

The reports on Garcia's unexplained wealth have dumbfounded his friends and colleagues, who described him as "kind, soft-spoken, helpful and generous."

But text messages circulating among PMA alumni have grown vicious with each discovery of Garcia's alleged assets.

"Only death to Garcia can redeem the AFP. Please pass," read a text message that the Inquirer received last week.

Why PMA is …

From page A1

going around? That PMA now stands for 'Philippine Millionaires Academy,'" Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr. said, his voice slightly quivering.

Garcia bowed his head. A couple of chairs from him, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya gazed straight ahead.

"There is low morale in the academy," said Espino, a 1972 graduate of the Philippines' premier military school. "The cadets are asking, 'Sir, is it true that the Garcia sons travel business class?'"

Garcia's chin dropped lower to his chest, his shoulders rising and falling as he took deep breaths.

An investigation by the Ombudsman showed that Garcia, with the help of his wife Clarita and two of their sons, Ian Carl and Juan Paolo, moved at least P44 million to the United States in the past 11 years.

The Garcia brothers were held at the San Francisco airport in December last year for not declaring that they were carrying $100,000.

The family is said to own a condominium at Trump Park Avenue and an apartment on East 34th St., both in New York, a house in Westerville, Ohio, and some 40 accounts in some banks in Metro Manila, among other assets.

A variation on the PMA joke was circulated last weekend. It read: "What's the best business school in the country? PMA—because it produces millionaires!"

Abu named to replace Abaya who retires in 2 weeks

From page A1

controversy, the biggest of which is the alleged ill-gotten wealth amassed by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

Maj. Gen. Ralph Flores is facing investigation for allegedly falsifying his birth records to extend his service. Air Force Brig. Gen. Prospero Ocampo is also under investigation but military officials have yet to reveal what Ocampo is being investigated for.

Recapture 'lost glory'

A member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1972, Abu vowed to restore the AFP's "lost glory" and to pursue cases against Garcia and the other officers.

He expressed surprise over reports that Garcia, a former AFP comptroller, had allegedly amassed millions of pesos worth of cash and real estate both in the Philippines and in the United States.

Shocked

"Personally, I was shocked by the revelations. It suddenly came out of nowhere because nobody really talks about these kind of things openly," Abu told the Inquirer in an interview.

Asked if Garcia's lifestyle had hinted of his fabulous fortune, Abu said: "We don't look at each other's lifestyle because we just work together. That is witch-hunting. Probably if we're neighbors or close friends."

Despite mounting documentary evidence of Garcia's wealth, Abu gave his beleaguered colleague the benefit of the doubt.

"We can't say that it's impossible (for Garcia to have built up such a fortune) because he might have some sources of income," he said. "It's hard to judge another person, that's a sin."

Abu was introduced by President Macapagal-Arroyo as the new AFP chief of staff at a luncheon with reporters in Malacañang.

Ms Arroyo, who had just emerged from a three-hour meeting of the Cabinet group of the National Security Council, said she brought Abu to the luncheon to brief reporters on the supposed link of the Communist Party of the Philippines to international terrorist groups. *(See story on Page A7.)*

"This is going to be the most challenging responsibility in my entire military career given what is happening now in the Armed Forces," the bemedaled general with the curious name said at the luncheon press conference.

"The honor of the organization is under a cloud of suspicion, so it's my job to bring back whatever (in) our honor is tarnished (and) the glory of the Armed Forces," Abu said.

Asked what his policy on Garcia would be, Abu read his "acceptance speech" upon the prodding of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

"General Abaya has initiated many reforms in the Armed Forces and these I will pursue vigorously. Yet, more than this I will initiate reforms to fine-tune your Armed Forces and make it more responsive to the beat of the times," Abu said.

He said he would support defense reforms to increase the capability of the AFP and maximize the use of limited resources as well as put in place "a strong check and balance that will promote transparency and accountability."

Daunting task

"Having said these, I will pursue the case against ranking officers who have committed serious infractions of the AFP's code of conduct," he said.

"I know that this is going to be a daunting task, but I am determined to ensure that your Armed Forces maintains the highest standard of honor and discipline. And I am asking the cooperation of each and every member of the Armed Forces. This is the time for progressive change," Abu said.

"While doing these, we should not lose sight that our mandate is to protect the people and defend the State," he added.

House probe

Ms Arroyo promptly announced the replacement of Abaya as he and other military officers were being grilled in the House of Representatives for the corruption scandal involving Garcia.

Garcia told the House committee on national defense that as comptroller he released military funds only with the approval of the AFP chief of staff.

Abu said that Ms Arroyo told him of his appointment only yesterday and that the President had not even given him his marching orders.

"Firstly, I am very grateful to the President for giving me the trust and confidence to command a critically challenged Armed Forces," Abu said.

He said his assignment to Mindanao had given him the "feel of the pulse" of the soldiers in the field. "I know what they want."

Army officials described Abu as an "unassuming, soft-spoken and a well-rounded" military officer.

"I think he's one of the most respected officers in the AFP," Cruz said.

Classmate of Indon president

Cruz said Abu was a classmate of newly elected Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, USA. "We're good friends, we've (maintained) communication," Abu said of the Indonesian president.

Abu obtained an MBA from the University of the Philippines (1980) and a Master of Arts in War Studies from King's College at the University of London (1998).

He attended various military courses, including the Scout Ranger Course, Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advance Course which he took up at Fort Benning in Georgia, USA, and a seminar on defense management at the ADFA in Canberra, Australia.

Like Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a former defense secretary, Abu comes from Batangas.

Task Force Libra

As chief of Task Force Libra, the AFP's elite anticoup unit formed shortly before former President Joseph Estrada was arrested in April 2001, Abu was ground commander of government troops during last year's coup attempt by 300 junior officers and soldiers.

The task force also played a key role in quelling the attack on Malacañang by thousands of Estrada supporters in May 2001.

Aside from being Army vice commander, chief of the 2nd ID, Abu served as deputy chief of staff for operations (J3), commander of the Army Light Armor Brigade in Tarlac and former defense and Armed Forces attaché assigned to the Court of St. James in the United Kingdom.

Awards

He has several awards, recognitions and recommendations. Among them are a Distinguished Conduct Star, two Distinguished Service Star Awards, two Philippine Legion of Honor awards, two Gold Cross Medal awards, and a Cavalier Award for Army operations.

Abu is married to Lorna Agra of Pila, Laguna. They have five children.

He is due to hang up his uniform on June 24 next year.

'Dark ages' with incoming AFP chief

By Fe Zamora

LT. GEN. EFREN ABU: A promise to restore the Armed Forces to its former glory once he assumes the AFP chief of staff post. PDI PHOTO

LT. GEN. Efren Abu has ordered so many cost-cutting measures in the Army that wives of soldiers joke they now live in the Dark Ages.

Two months after he became the commanding general of the Army, Abu ordered all lights and air-con units switched off at 5 p.m. He also banned employees from staying in their offices after working hours.

Only one office—the Army Operations Center—was allowed to keep its light and air-conditioners on for 24 hours, according to Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

Abu also stopped subsidizing the electric bills of the officers and the enlisted men who live in the housing area maintained by the Army, Pascual said.

"It's the dark ages here. We are all in the energy conservation mode," a colonel's wife jokingly told the Inquirer.

The wife, who asked not to be named, said the hallways were so dark because "the consumption is charged to us." Before, she said, the bill was paid for by the military.

Abu also imposed a limit on foreign travels and schooling by Army officers. Those who were due to travel were banned from making "exit calls," Pascual said.

"Exit calls" refers to the practice of visiting a ranking Army officer, like the Army logistics chief (G4) or the Army comptrollership (G6), for the *"pabaon"* (allowance) of an officer scheduled to travel abroad either for schooling or conference.

An Army source said the "exit money" was a product of conversion, a military practice of transforming procurements into cash.

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Gov't lowers proposed 'sin' tax increase to 20 percent

By Carlito Pablo

THE ARROYO administration has agreed to lower the proposed tax rate increase on the so-called sin products—tobacco and alcohol—from the original 30 percent to only 20 percent.

The move was apparently made to hasten the passage of legislation to increase the excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products in the face of a determined lobby in Congress by the manufacturers of these products.

Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong informed the House ways and means committee about the decision to lower the tax rate hike in an informal hearing on Monday.

"Following consultations with the President's economic managers and industry stakeholders, an across-the-board percentage increase, without changing the classification made by Congress in 1996, is deemed more palatable," Amatong said.

The government is now proposing a tax rate increase of 20 percent, to be accompanied by the indexation of the taxes of sin products to inflation every two years.

The two competing tobacco manufacturers—Fortune Tobacco Corp. of influential ethnic Chinese businessman Lucio Tan and the United States-based Philip Morris Phil. Manufacturing—aided by their allies in Congress, have put forward their own proposals on how the tax law affecting their products should be written.

Fortune wants to revert to the pre-1997 ad valorem system of taxation, while Philip Morris is calling for a uniform tax increase for all brands.

Rep. Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac), the committee chair, earlier appealed to manufacturers to come up with a common position in order not to delay legislation.

DSWD sets aside ₱51M for food coupon program

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development has allotted P51 million in start-up funds for the food coupon program for the country's poorest families.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman told reporters before the start of yesterday's House hearing on the DSWD's proposed 2005 budget that she was set to present the program to President Macapagal-Arroyo today.

"We are identifying areas where there are high malnutrition rates among children," Soliman said.

She said the DSWD would initially bankroll the food coupon program which was created in response to the recent survey that showed more Filipinos were going hungry.

"We hope to have this program approved this week," Soliman said.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), House appropriations committee chair, asked Soliman how long the program would be implemented.

Three to six months was her reply.

The food coupons won't come without a price, however.

"When they are given coupons, they will be requested to provide community service," Soliman said.

One example of the service they could render, she said, is cleaning up government buildings.

It was not clear, however, where the government would find the funds to support the program, which would run into the billions if implemented nationwide.

The DSWD's proposed budget for 2005 is P2.2 billion.

Carlito Pablo

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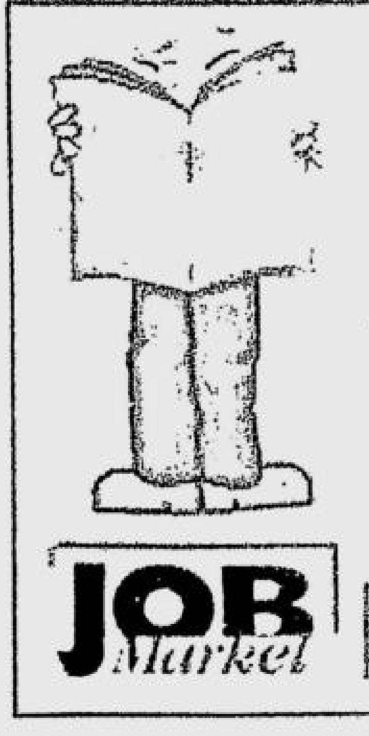

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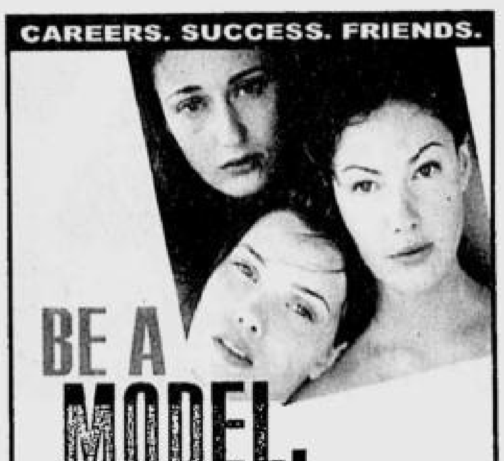

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Enrile to young solons: Work harder, longer on budget

By Luige A. del Puerto and Michael Lim Ubac

EMBARRASSED at the prospect of yet another reenacted national budget, veteran legislator Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile challenged his much younger colleagues in the House of Representatives to work without let-up to pass the 2005 appropriations bill.

The 80-year-old Enrile challenged the House members to work 16-hour days, which he said he and his colleagues in the Senate would match with 20-hour work days.

"Get down to work. No night clubs, no playing of golf, no sniffing of shabu, no smoking of cigarettes," he said during the launch of the opposition's Rebolusyon Kontra Gutom program in Taytay, Rizal, yesterday.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said on Sunday that because the appropriations bill was being held up in the House, Congress may fail to approve the 2005 budget, which would mean that the government would again be operating on the reenacted 2003 budget.

Enrile said that if the budget was reenacted a second straight year, Congress may as well give up its function of sorting out and approving the budget and leave the job to the executive branch.

"It means that we are no longer following the Constitution, that we are lazy and that the government has no discipline," he said.

Enrile said he could not believe how some legislators could even think of going on vacation at this time.

"I told them to postpone their vacation and solve the problems of the country first. Their seats have not even been warmed yet and they are already on vacation; they have gone roaming to other parts of the world," he said.

Administration Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday assured the public that the Senate was willing to work double time to finish the budget deliberations by the end of the year.

GMA: Local Reds tying up with terrorists

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the government has found evidence of growing links between foreign terrorists and communist guerillas waging a decades-old Maoist rebellion in the country.

She said she had ordered a review of the government's strategy to address the 35-year-old insurgency, which includes peace talks with the rebels that stalled earlier this year.

"In view of recent developments, I have instructed the national security agencies of the government to come up with a comprehensive reassessment of our strategy vis-a-vis the CPP-NPA and a review of our negotiations with the NDF," referring to the rebels' political wing, the National Democratic Front.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane said the recent developments alluded to by the President were the murder of former NPA rebel Arturo Tabara, the consolidation and expansion of the CPP-NPA in the rural areas, and the order of Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison to conduct operations against the government on a regular basis and increase the collection of progressive taxes.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz stressed that the President's order to reassess the peace talks included deciding whether or not the government should continue talks with the CPP-NPA and the NDF, and whether to label the communist rebels a terrorist threat.

Ms Arroyo claimed that intelligence reports showed growing links between the leftist rebels and the international terrorist groups.

Ebdane and Cruz, however, could not cite any specific terrorist groups which had hooked up with local leftist rebels.

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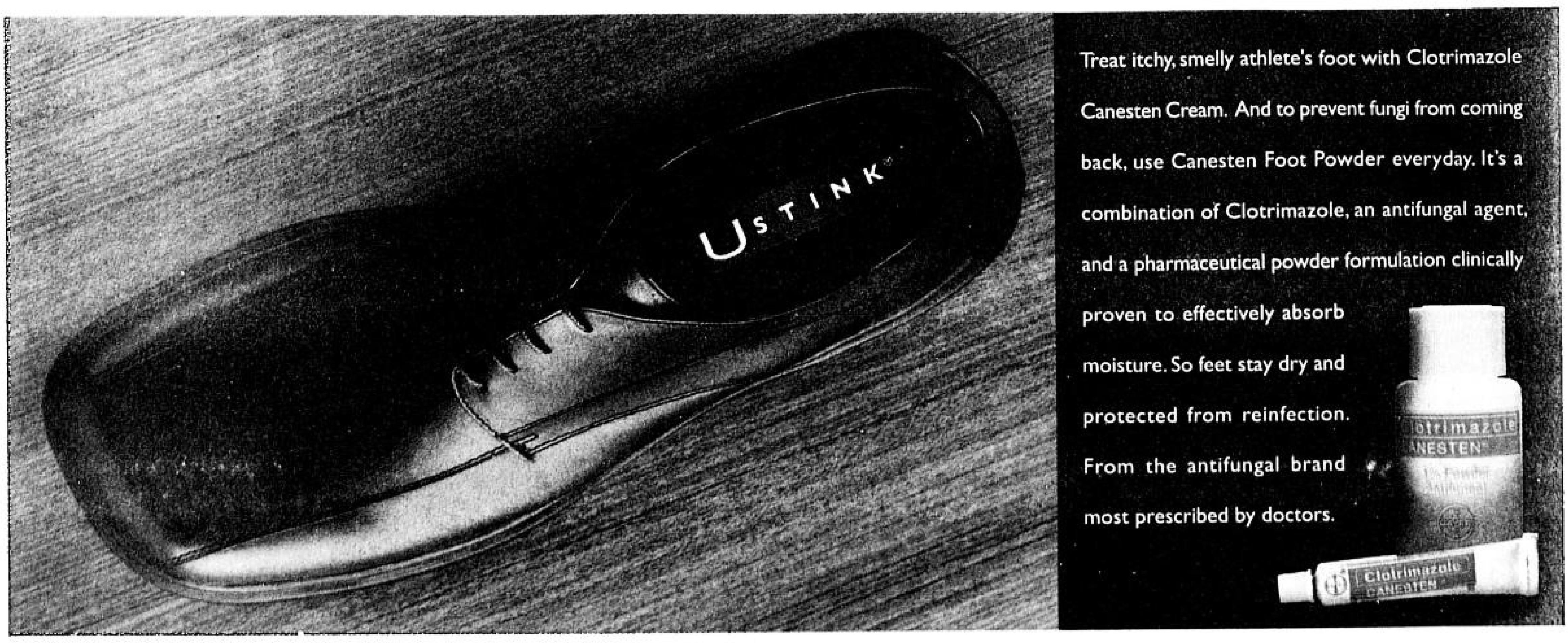

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Court lets Jinggoy fly to US anew

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has allowed Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to travel to the United States a second time amid the objection of prosecution lawyers who insist he continues to be a flight risk because of the plunder charges he is facing.

In a two-page resolution released yesterday, the Sandiganbayan Special Division under acting Chair Teresita J. Leonardo-de Castro granted Estrada's motion to travel to Los Angeles, California, to attend the funeral of his maternal grandfather, Filemon Fernandez.

In granting the request, the court set several conditions, among them that he limit his trip to the Los Angeles area and only from Oct. 19 to Oct. 25. He was also asked to post a P100,000 travel bond.

The court said Estrada had a "justifiable reason to travel" to the US and "unless it can be shown that the exercise of the right to travel may prove clearly inimical to the general welfare, no governmental action invading this right is justifiable.

"The accused movant is an incumbent senator of the Republic and when he was allowed to travel abroad [the first time] he returned and dutifully complied with all the conditions imposed by this court," the Sandiganbayan said.

Estrada was set to leave last night.

But prosecution lawyers were vehemently against Estrada's trip, saying he remained one of the principal accused in the plunder case against his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, and the latter's private lawyer Edward Serapio and was out on bail.

Even if he returned from his US trip in June, the prosecution said "it is undeniable that the risk of flight is continuously there."

Armand N. Nocum

Diesel prices hiked

JUST a week after hiking their prices, oil firms Caltex Phil. Inc. and Total (Phil.) Corp. again raised the prices of their diesel and kerosene by 35 centavos a liter at 6 p.m. yesterday.

New oil player Flying V followed suit at midnight last night.

Caltex likewise raised the price of cooking gas by 50 centavos per kilogram or P16.50 for every 11-kg cylinder.

Refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., as well as refined petroleum product importers Eastern Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Phil. Petroleum Inc. have yet to announce their own price adjustments.

Last week, the oil firms, except Petron, increased diesel and kerosene prices by 45 centavos a liter. Petron raised the prices of the same products by only 35 centavos.

Abigail L. Ho

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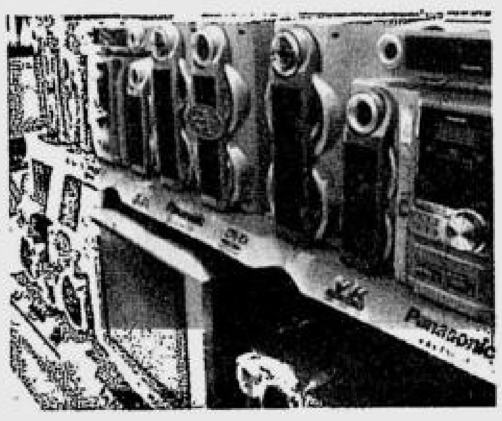
Panasonic's latest top-of-the-line products are now at the newly-opened store, Avant, 2nd floor, Greenbelt 4. Located in the posh Greenbelt area, Avant showcases the Viera, the hottest Plasma TV and LCD TV from Panasonic. Complementing the minimalist interior of Avant, the elegant flowing design of the Viera greets the customers upon entrance. The Viera boasts of the ultimate technology in flat panel displays with its superb picture technology for richer blacks, finest details and impressive depth; a futuristic Smart Sound Speaker System for cinematic sound experience; an expansive multimedia network accessibility which allows the user to view images from his digital camera or other memory card-equipped sources, and even surf the PC and view streaming web videos.



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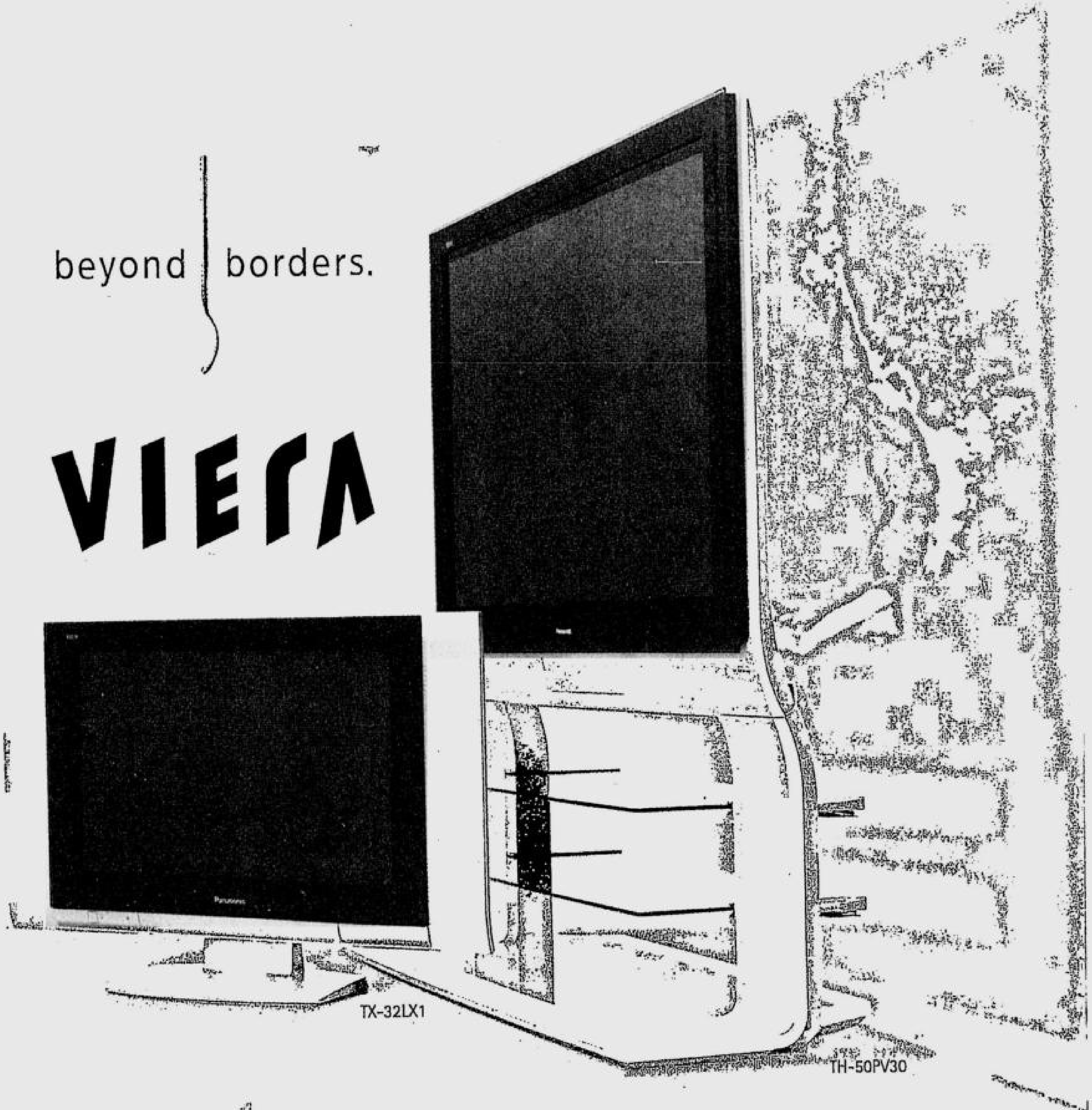

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Oil prices tumble below $53 as fuel costs hit economy

LONDON—Oil prices fell for a second session on Tuesday, taking US crude under $53, on signs that high energy costs are cutting into economic growth.

US light crude by 0945 GMT was off 74 cents at $52.93 a barrel following a $1.26 slide on Monday from Friday's record closing high of $54.93 a barrel. Prices are down nearly four percent in two days.

Brent crude in London eased 55 cents to $48.36 a barrel.

The reversal comes on growing evidence that rocketing fuel costs are starting to slow the economic growth that helped ignite this year's $20-a-barrel rally.

On Monday, Wall Street banks Morgan Stanley and J.P. Morgan cut their estimates for 2005 growth, blaming high fuel costs for a predicted slowdown in consumer demand.

"While high prices affect consumer spending immediately, typically the demand side response to high prices takes 3 to 6 quarters to feed through to consumer price indices," said Marshall Hall of London energy consultancy EMC.

"That means we will still be feeling the effect of $50 oil on the economy in late 2005."

Morgan Stanley reduced its forecast for global expansion next year to 3.6 percent, down from 3.9 percent, and warned of more possible revisions.

"As the prospects of a full-blown oil shock rise, the prospects of outright global recession in 2005 loom more and more likely," said Morgan Stanley chief economist Stephen Roach.

J.P. Morgan scaled back its forecast for US growth to 3.25 percent for the first half of 2005, down from 4 percent.

Officials in the United States, Germany and Japan have warned that surging oil prices may put the brakes on economic growth.

"We are looking at the rise in oil prices as the biggest risk factor if it continues for a long period," Japan's Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka said.

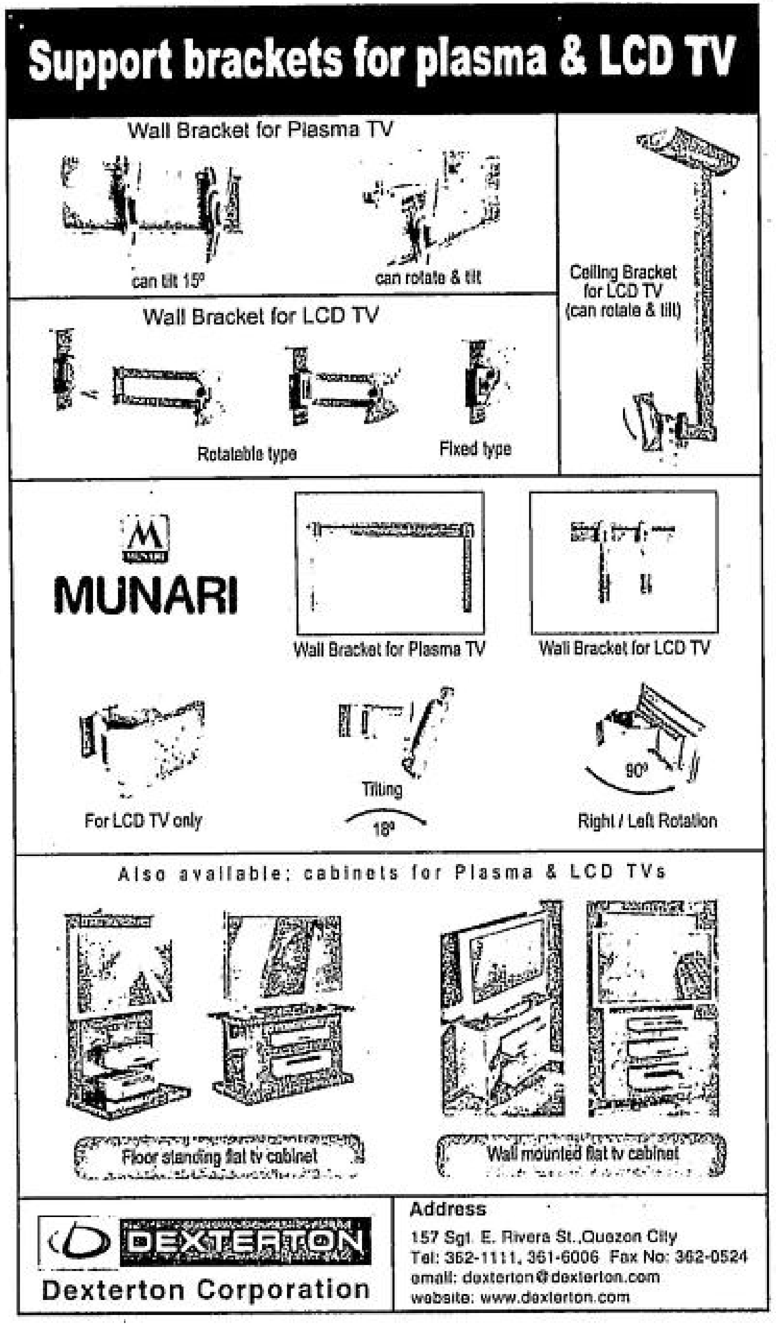
Opec on Monday cut its forecast for world oil demand growth next year by 130,000 barrels per day to 1.61 million bpd in anticipation of the impact of high prices on fuel consumption.

Demand growth this year, led by China, has raced along at a 25-year-high of 2.6 million bpd on the 83 million bpd world market.

But Chinese oil consumption growth is now showing signs of slowing.

The head of Asia's biggest oil refiner, China's Sinopec Corp., predicted that domestic demand in the world's second-biggest oil consumer would moderate next year.

"We expect China's oil products demand growth to slow slightly from this year to 8-10 percent," Sinopec president Wang Jiming told reporters in Beijing. *Reuters*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US warplanes hit rebel hideouts in Fallujah

BAGHDAD—US warplanes hit the rebel-held Iraqi city of Fallujah overnight as part of a drive to thwart expected attacks during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and ensure security for national polls due in January.

US and Iraqi forces also surrounded the town of Duluiya, north of Baghdad, raiding homes, detaining scores of suspected rebels and calling in helicopter strikes on suspected insurgents hiding in surrounding orchards, Iraqi officials said on Tuesday.

There was no word on casualties from either operation.

The 96 minutes of air strikes on Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, destroyed safe houses and weapons caches used by followers of Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the US' top enemy in Iraq, the US military said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Multiple secondary explosions indicate a significant amount of explosives or ammunition inside the houses," it said.

The United States said Zarqawi's group was using the houses to plan suicide car bombings during Ramadan, a month that saw a dramatic spike in bloodshed a year ago and which comes just ahead of elections set for January.

Zarqawi's Tawhid wal Jihad (One God and Holy War) group claimed twin suicide bombings that killed five people last week in Baghdad's fortress-like Green Zone, home to the interim Iraqi administration and the US and British embassies.

Washington has blamed Zarqawi and his followers for some of the worst militant violence since last year's invasion of Iraq.

Iraq's US-backed administration is battling to pacify the country and win back insurgent-held areas before the election, which is seen as a crucial step in Iraq's efforts to rebuild.

Duluiya is about 20 km south of the town of Samarra, where US and Iraqi forces carried out a large offensive this month to restore control.

The United States, Iraq and other countries have been putting pressure on the United Nations to send senior staff into Iraq quickly to help prepare for the elections.

But the White House said on Monday US military commanders and the interim Baghdad government had rejected a Saudi plan for an all-Muslim force to protect UN election staff in Iraq.

"The Iraqi interim government had some real concerns about having troops from a neighboring country inside Iraq," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan. "The multinational commanders also had some concerns about forces operating outside the chain of command structure."

Britain is considering a US request to move troops now based in southern Iraq into more potentially dangerous areas to cover for US units battling rebels in Fallujah and elsewhere.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said he had not made any decision but expected a final assessment from his officials next week. Any such deployment could re-ignite anger over Prime Minister Tony Blair's support for the war.

Iraq's interim administration said on Monday a weapons amnesty that it considered successful in a restive area of the capital would be expanded to the rest of the country.

National Security Adviser Kassim Daoud said the cash-for-guns drive in Baghdad's Sadr City slum would be extended two days to Thursday. It was not clear if the expansion of the amnesty across the country would include a cash buyback.

In a country awash with guns, Iraqis are allowed one AK-47 assault rifle per household and handguns are largely overlooked.

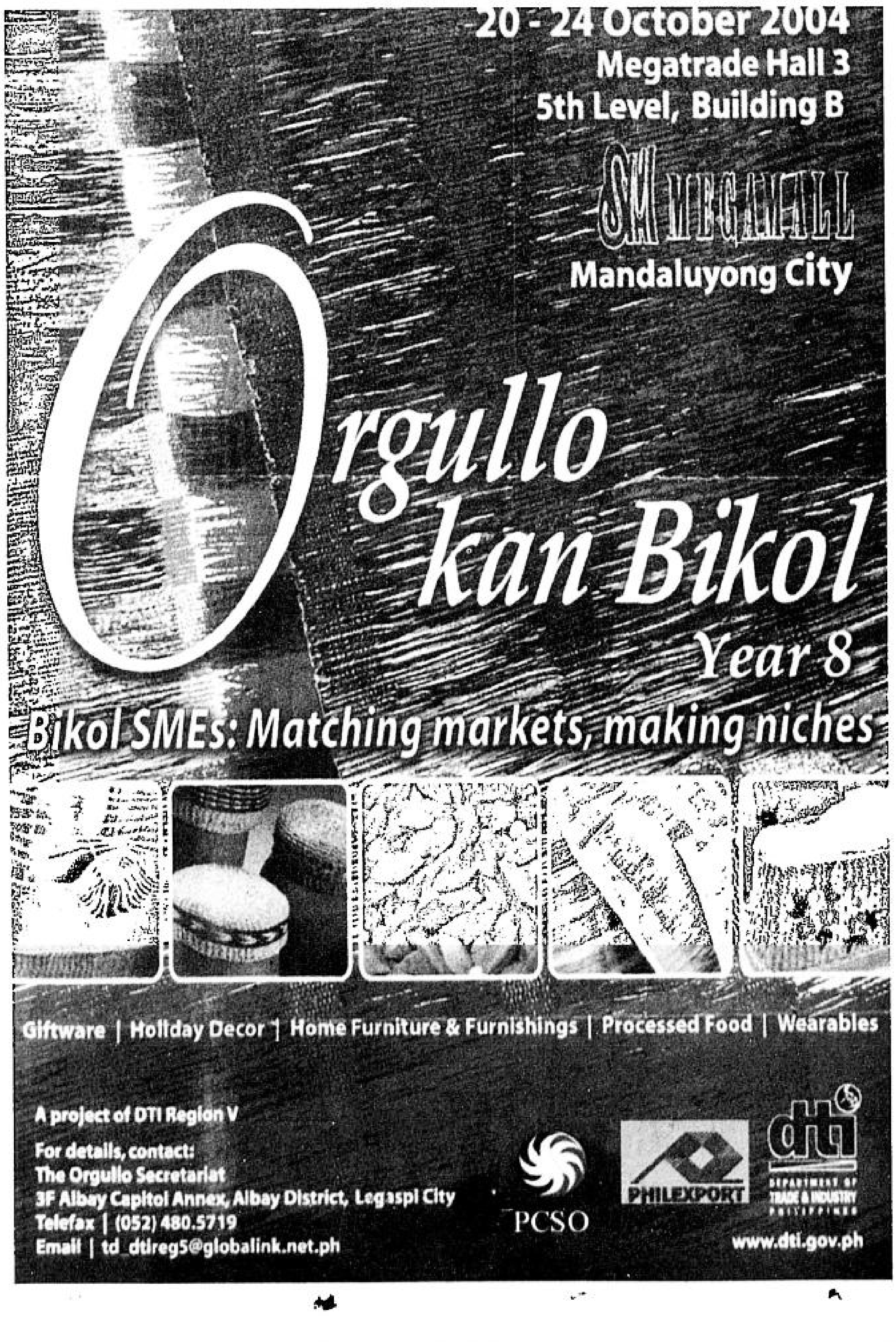
But many families possess more than one weapon.

US forces on Monday released Fallujah's chief negotiator, whom they detained on Friday, after battles and air strikes on the edge of the rebel-held Sunni Muslim stronghold.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says he remains open to a negotiated settlement in Fallujah, but some senior Western diplomats say the chances are fading by the day.

Fallujah residents, enraged by US air strikes that they say kill civilians, deny any knowledge of Zarqawi's network.

Freed Fallujah representative Khaled al-Jumaili said the hunt for Zarqawi was a pretext to attack the town, comparing it to US assertions that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction before last year's invasion. *Reuters*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WORLDBRIEFS

Mortar attack kills, wounds 100

BAGHDAD—Iraqi officials said Tuesday more than 100 Iraqis were killed and wounded when a mortar attack hit an Iraqi National Guard headquarters north of Baghdad. Six mortar rounds fell on National Guard offices in an early morning attack in Mashahidan, 40 km north of Baghdad, said Iraqi police and National Guard officers under condition of anonymity. There was no breakdown on the number of those killed and injured. US Blackhawk helicopters evacuated all the injured, police said. *AP*

Spain nabs 7 terror suspects

MADRID—Seven North Africans arrested by Spanish police were plotting a major bombing attack against the National Court, a hub of Spain's investigations of Islamic terrorism, newspapers said Tuesday. El Pais quoted police sources as saying the plot was only in the preliminary stages because there was no evidence the suspects had actually obtained explosives. Another newspaper, El Mundo, said the plan involved detonating a truck loaded with 500 kilos of explosives outside the courthouse, located on a busy avenue in downtown Madrid. The interior ministry and officials at the court declined to comment on the reports. El Pais said the arrests were ordered as part of a probe undertaken by the court's Judge Baltasar Garzon, Spain's leading antiterrorism magistrate. Those arrested included at least four Algerians and one Moroccan in Madrid, El Ejido, Gandia, Malaga and Almeria. They were identified as Small Latrech, Ali Omar "Jelloul," Djamel Merabet, Mourat Yala "Abu Anas," Ahmed Mohamed and Magid Mchmacha. One remained unidentified. *AP*

UN, Brazil to solve nuke impasse

RIO DE JANEIRO—The United Nations and Brazil moved on Monday to break a months-long deadlock over inspections to verify Latin America's largest nation is not diverting enriched uranium for weapons. UN nuclear experts met officials from the Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission and other nuclear-related bodies in Rio de Janeiro before Tuesday's visit to the Resende plant in Rio state, where enrichment can only begin with UN approval. Odair Dias Goncalves, president of the government's commission, said the International Atomic Energy Agency team would verify if Brazil's latest proposal for inspections being confined to parts of the new plant would guarantee adequate control over nuclear nonproliferation. Brazil, home to the world's fourth largest reserve of uranium, says its enrichment operations will be entirely peaceful and also very small compared to other countries. The country has two nuclear reactors and is mulling a third. *Reuters*

Astronaut to vote from space

CAPE CANAVERAL—The space station's newest astronaut will cast his ballot in the presidential election from 362 km up, with Nasa's help. Leroy Chiao said Monday that the space agency has worked hard with local and federal authorities so he can vote from the orbiting complex, his home until spring. He will cast his ballot via a secure e-mail connection, much the same way another astronaut did from Russia's Mir space station in 1997. US astronauts, most of whom live around Houston, won the right to vote from space under a Texas bill signed into law by then-Gov. George W. Bush. "Definitely, I'll be exercising my civic right and my civic duty," Chiao said. Chiao arrived at the station over the weekend via a Russian Soyuz spacecraft that also carried two cosmonauts, one of whom will spend the next six months with him in orbit. *AP*

Bush, Kerry trade barbs over Iraq, war on terror

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry traded sharp accusations over Iraq and the war on terror on Monday, with Bush condemning Kerry's "strategy of retreat" and Kerry saying the administration's Iraq policy had been "hijacked by ideologues."

Barely two weeks before an extremely close Nov. 2 election, the two White House rivals ratcheted up their war of words with some of their toughest attacks yet.

Bush traveled to Democratic-leaning New Jersey to remind voters of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and his "clear moral purpose" in response. He contrasted that with Kerry, who he condemned for taking the "easy path of protest and defeatism."

Kerry, meanwhile, kicked off early voting in the crucial battleground state of Florida with a sharp indictment of Bush's "arrogant" handling of the Iraq war and of health care issues at home.

"Despite the president's arrogant boasting that he has done everything right in Iraq and that he's made no mistakes, the truth is beginning to catch up with him," the Massachusetts senator said in Tampa, Florida.

Kerry cited a Washington Post report about complaints that the former top US commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, sent to the Pentagon last winter regarding shortages of parts and equipment.

"Mr. President, you can choose to ignore the facts, but in the end, you can't hide the truth from the American people," he said. "I will never allow our policy to be hijacked by ideologues at the expense of the best advice of our military professional commanders."

Bush, meanwhile, told supporters Kerry did not share his commitment to victory in Iraq and had "a fundamental misunderstanding of the war on terror." *Reuters*

Burma PM sacked, arrested for corruption

NYUNT

BANGKOK—Burma's (Myanmar) Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt—among the most reformist of the military regime's leaders—has been sacked and placed under house arrest for alleged corruption, a Thai government spokesman said Tuesday.

"The Thai government has learned through diplomatic channels from the Thai ambassador in Rangoon that the Burma prime minister Khin Nyunt was dismissed and detained under house arrest on corruption allegations," spokesperson Jakrapob Penkair told reporters.

The premier, number three in the Burma leadership, was arrested in a shock move on Monday night after he returned to the capital from a visit to the central town of Mandalay, according to sources.

Khin Nyunt, 65, was the face of the hardline regime overseas and supported dialogue with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

But he appeared increasingly marginalized with the rise of hardliners within the leadership, according to analysts.

Senior General Than Shwe, head of the junta known as the State Peace and Development Council, strongly opposes allowing Suu Kyi any role in the political process.

Analysts saw the move as a consolidation of his power and said it was likely to signal a continued hard line against supporters of Suu Kyi, who has now been detained for 16 months during her third period of house arrest.

The sacking was also the culmination of growing tensions between rival factions within the leadership, sources in Burma said.

An analyst in Rangoon said the sacking was likely to have major repercussions and followed feuding between military intelligence, headed by Khin Nyunt for 20 years, and the main body of the military leadership.

"He (Khin Nyunt) was recognized as having some kind of international experience," the analyst said.

"They must have reached an impasse to come to such a situation that is putting in danger the unity of the army. This is a first." The isolated regime closed its border checkpoints as the drama played out and telephone communication with Rangoon became difficult amid swirling rumors of high-level changes.

Thai security sources said Lt. Gen. San Pwint, who has been involved in a drugs crackdown and negotiations with opposition ethnic groups, would replace Khin Nyunt. He is not seen as a strong ally of either faction.

"I don't think there will be any unrest or bloodshed in Burma concerning this change as Burma is known for its decisive action," Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Thai deputy prime minister, told reporters amid reports of trucks of troops driving around Rangoon.

Khin Nyunt was appointed as premier in August 2003, soon after Burma was condemned internationally for the detention of Suu Kyi following a violent clash between her supporters and a pro-junta mob.

The premier announced a seven-point "road map to democracy" but the program has stalled amid international complaints that it is a sham while Suu Kyi remains under house arrest.

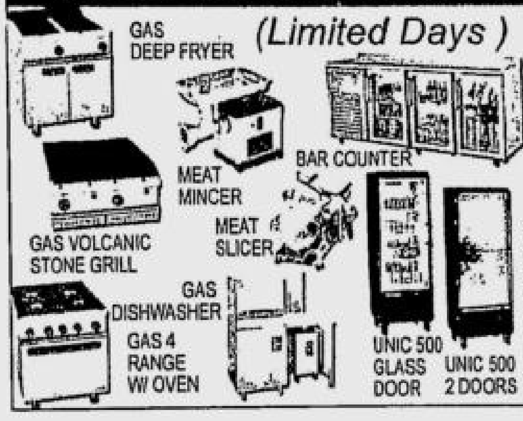
Her party, the National League for Democracy, won national elections in 1990 but was not allowed to rule by the military.

"This is the hardliners consolidating power and we are concerned it means the country is going back to isolation and away from the democracy road map," said Sunai Phasuk, an advisor to the Thai Senate committee on foreign affairs.

"If Than Shwe remains Than Shwe, a man who puts military ahead of political negotiations, then the road ahead is very serious," he said.

Burma has been ruled by the military since 1962 and has faced mounting international sanctions from the EU and United States because of the lack of movement in democratic reforms. *AFP*

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE
(Limited Days)



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Indonesia's Megawati leaving as she had governed–silently

MEGAWATI

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri will leave office Wednesday in the same fashion many say characterized her three years as the leader of the world's most populous Muslim nation—silent and aloof.

In her latest display of seemingly imperious reticence, the 57-year-old former housewife and daughter of Indonesia's founding father, Sukarno, has refused to explicitly concede defeat to President-elect Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and aides say she's refused an invitation to his inauguration Wednesday. And since her loss, she hasn't spoken of her plans.

"Her actions and remarks, so far, during this historic transition period, have left us dumbfounded," read a recent editorial in the Jakarta Post daily. "Ignorant and spiteful would be descriptions of her."

Megawati's behavior, however, is not surprising for those who have followed her presidency, during which she rarely addressed the nation and often seemed uninterested with the affairs of government or ordinary Indonesians.

But the current fuss over her behavior is threatening to overshadow her modest achievements as Indonesia's first female leader.

Analysts say her main legacy will be the success of the Sept. 20 polls, where she suffered a landslide defeat to former general Yudhoyono.

Those polls were Indonesia's first direct presidential elections, cementing the country's transition to democracy after the downfall of longtime dictator General Suharto in 1998.

The elections followed first round voting in July and parliamentary polls in April. All the ballots were peaceful and fair, and were taken as proof that democracy and Islam are compatible.

"Megawati stabilized the country and has oversaw its path to democracy," said Dewi Fortuna Anwar, a former adviser to ex-President B.J. Habibie. "That's no mean feat."

She has also been credited for improving security in several provinces once wracked with religious and ethnic violence in the sprawling country.

Under Megawati's watch, the economy also improved slightly, growing by about 5 percent annually, but still not enough to create the jobs needed for millions of unemployed.

Megawati became president in 2001 after parliament impeached her predecessor Abdurrahman Wahid for incompetence. She had been serving as Wahid's deputy.

After the chaos of the Wahid years, there were high hopes Megawati could push through reforms on the back of popularity, much of which rested on a reputation for compassion and her bloodline as the child of the still revered Sukarno.

But her support quickly plummeted after she failed to tackle rampant graft and attract foreign investment. Her silence infuriated even her supporters, who urged her to take a more active role. *AP*

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Bird flu may have killed 23 tigers in zoo

BANGKOK—A Thai tiger zoo housing hundreds of the big cats was shut down Tuesday after preliminary bird flu tests revealed 23 tigers had likely died of the virus and another 30 had fallen ill.

Thailand's bird flu task force head, deputy prime minister Chaturon Chaisang, said the Sri Racha Tiger Zoo's cats most likely contracted bird flu after being fed raw chickens.

"Initial test results revealed 19 tigers may have died from bird flu virus and more tiger deaths this morning brought the total number to 23," Chaturon said, adding "the zoo has now been closed for tourists."

The deputy premier said authorities were waiting for the results of a second round of conclusive tests before confirming bird flu in the tigers.

The kingdom's Livestock Development Department said officials were working to quarantine tigers at the eastern Chonburi province zoo, which houses some 400 of the feline predators.

"Officials have already separated sick tigers and sprayed germ killers at Sri Racha Tiger Zoo, which will be closed indefinitely until the all-clear is given," said the department's Director General Yukol Limlamthong.

He said the first tiger died on Oct. 14, and since then a total of 53 cats have tested positive to bird flu in first-round tests.

The World Health Organization said last month it was taking seriously a scientific report that domestic cats could contract bird flu and pass it on to humans after Dutch researchers experimentally infected six European short-hair cats with the H5N1 virus. *AFP*

Singapore is deadliest place for criminals–AI

SINGAPORE—Rights group Amnesty International challenged Singapore on Tuesday to disclose the number of executions this year, saying the wealthy island puts more people to death than any other country on a per capita basis.

"In the absence of full disclosure of official statistics, the organization remains concerned that Singapore may continue to have the highest number of per capita executions in the world," Amnesty International Southeast Asian official Tim Parritt said.

Amnesty's call comes a day before Singapore's Court of Appeal rules on the case of 24-year-old Australian Nguyen Tuong Van, an ethnic Vietnamese man found guilty in March of smuggling 400 grams of heroin and sentenced to death.

About 400 people have been hanged in Singapore since 1991, mostly for drug trafficking, giving the Southeast Asian island of 4.2 million people possibly the highest execution rate in the world relative to its population, Amnesty said.

According to Amnesty data drawn from media reports and public documents, between 1994 and 1999, an average of 13.57 executions were carried out per one million of the population, three times higher than the next country on the list, Saudia Arabia.

Singapore's drug laws are among the world's harshest.

Anyone aged 18 or over convicted of carrying more than 15 grams of heroin faces mandatory execution by hanging.

Nguyen's lawyers appealed the verdict and the London-based human rights group said it would seek clemency from Singapore President S.R. Nathan if the death sentence is upheld.

Amnesty said in January that executions in Singapore were "shockingly high" and "shrouded in secrecy," calling on the state to abolish the death penalty by issuing a moratorium on all executions and commuting all death sentences to prison terms.

Singapore's government said it imposed capital punishment "only for the most serious crimes," that the death penalty deterred major drug syndicates from setting up in Singapore and that Singapore applied standards of transparency.

Although prison officials confirmed last year that about 400 people had been executed since 1991, government officials declined requests by Reuters to specify how many people have been sent to the gallows this year. *Reuters*

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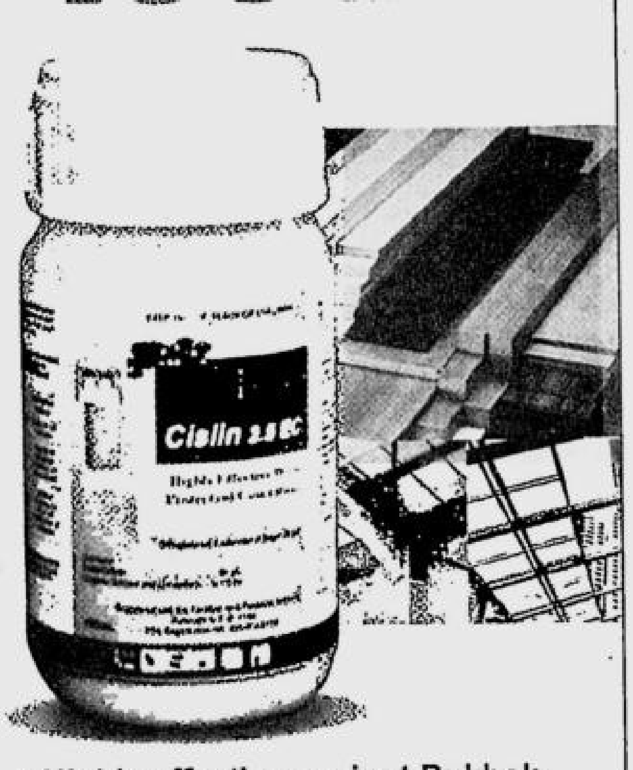

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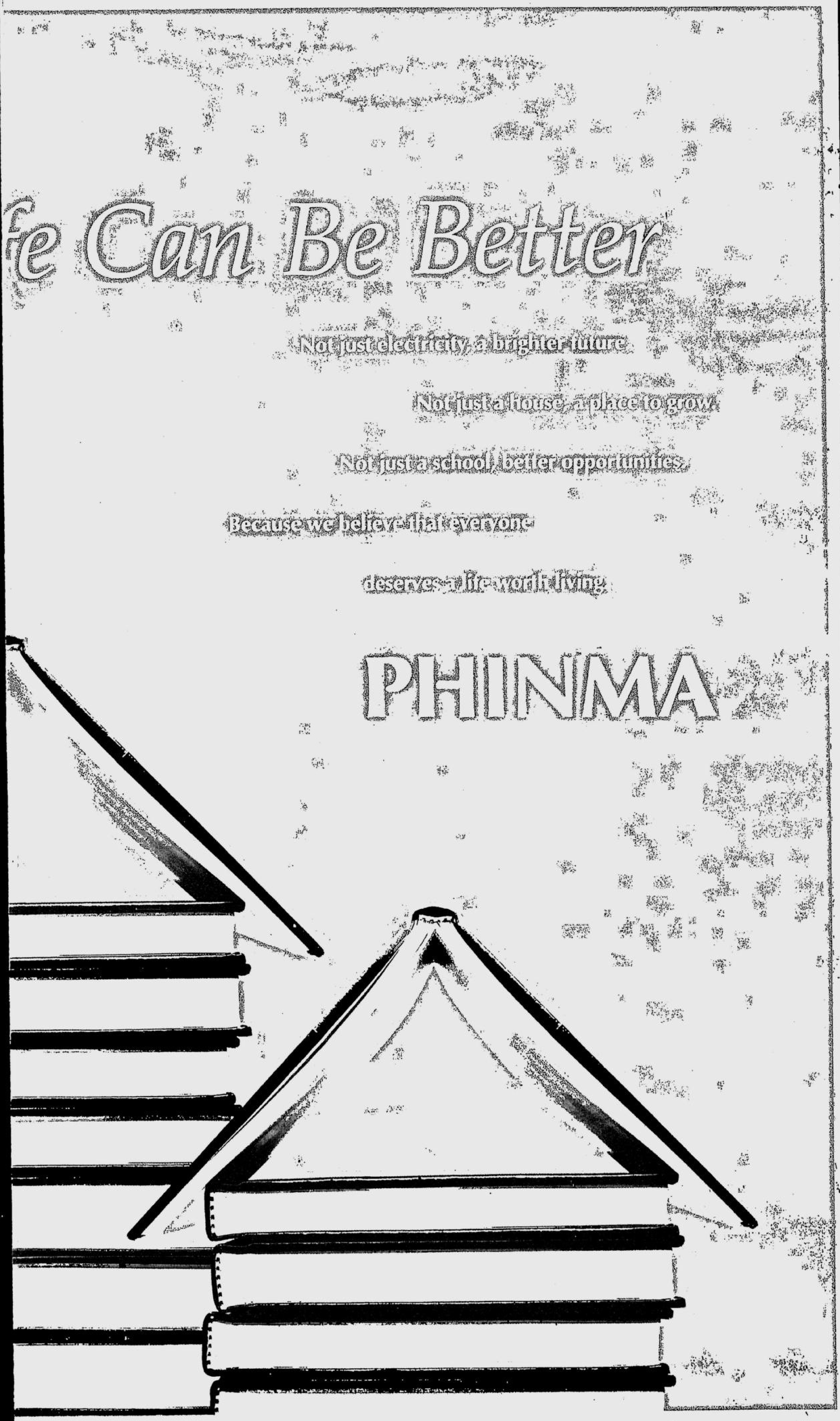
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OPINION

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Liberation

EDITORIAL

EUPHORIA and thanksgiving are strange reactions to bombing, shelling and death. This was, however, the reaction of an overwhelming number of Filipinos to the news that Gen. Douglas MacArthur, together with officials of the Commonwealth government in exile, led by President Sergio Osmeña, Carlos P. Romulo and Basilio Valdes, had landed in Leyte 60 years ago today.

The return of the Americans brought with it hardship: a great path of destruction was created as the Americans took Leyte and then embarked on taking Luzon. The destruction would culminate in the devastation of Manila, the burning and shelling of which dwarfed even the wrecking of other Philippine cities such as Davao, Cebu and Baguio.

The reaction of Filipinos to the destruction of their homes and the killing of so many who had yearned for liberation was not unique. The French, too, saw many killed and many cities ruined because of the Allied invasion of Europe. In the wake of the D-Day anniversary earlier this year, veterans were interviewed who, to this day, marvel at the outpouring of joy, even amid death and destruction, that greeted Allied forces. The same was the case in Belgium, in Holland and many other occupied countries.

What set apart Filipinos was that they welcomed the Allies while so many of our neighbors and fellow Asians viewed their return with suspicion and even fear. The reason for this is that among all the colonized countries in the world, only the Philippines had been promised, and expected, its independence.

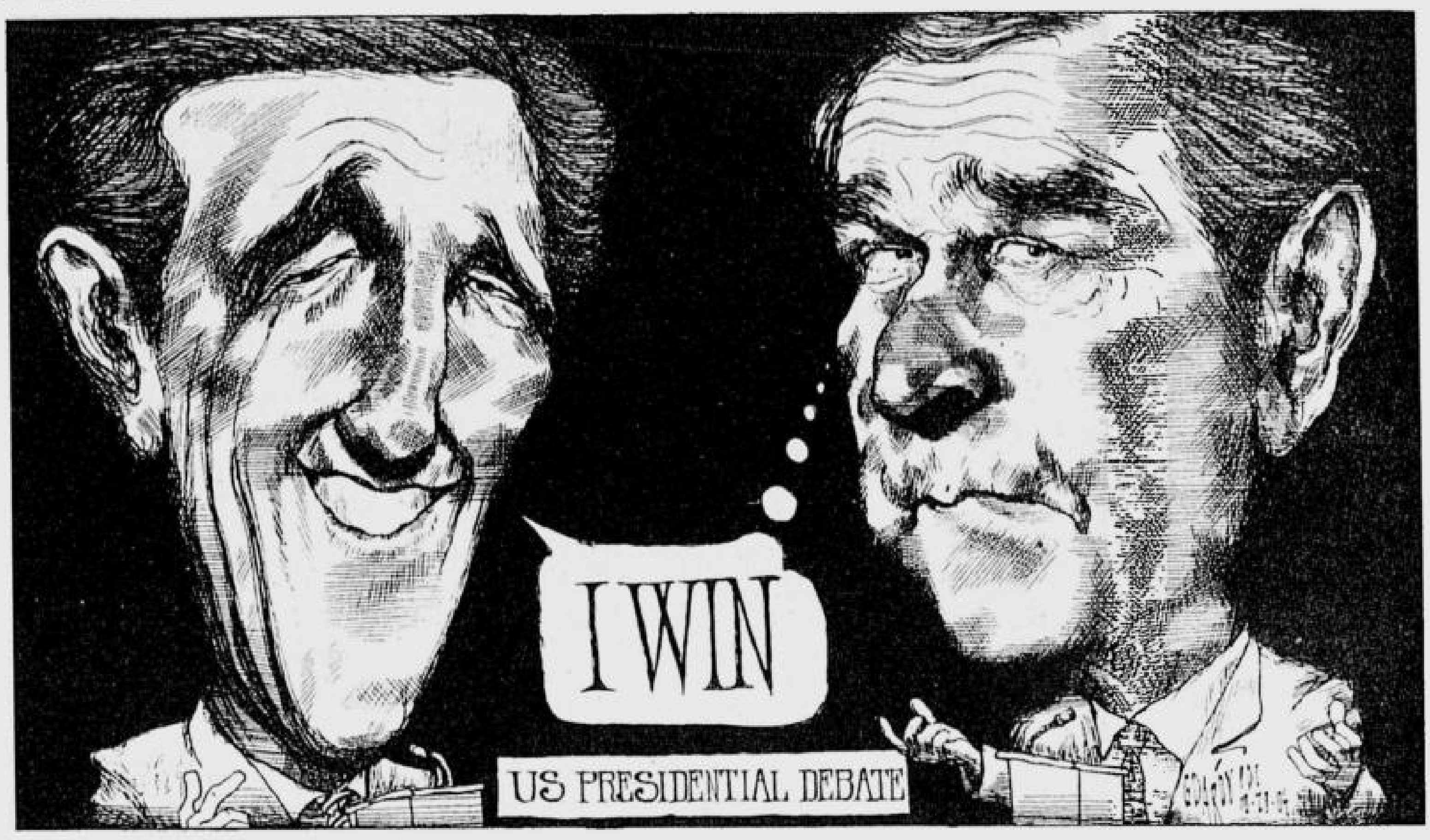
It is difficult for the Filipinos of today to appreciate the tremendous prestige and even trust that the Americans, our allies in the war, enjoyed in this part of the world. Even as Filipinos ecstatically welcomed the return of the Americans, many Asian leaders looked to America for sympathy and even help. Mao Zedong came close to undertaking an alliance with the Americans. Ho Chi Minh tried to enlist American aid. The Indians during the war had looked to America to put pressure on Britain in order to exact concessions from their imperial rulers. If for reasons of ideology, Mao and Ho Chi Minh had no great love of the American way of life, they had some respect for it. And, like Indian leaders such as Nehru, whatever misgivings they may have felt were outweighed by their hatred for the fascism that Japan represented.

This is also something difficult for the Filipinos of today to appreciate: that the hatred of the majority of Filipinos for the Japanese would have been such, that they preferred their cities wrecked and so many dead to remaining one minute longer under the Japanese. This is why the generation alive during the war mostly referred—and still refer—to the return of the Americans as "liberation."

To us, today, "liberation" sounds hollow, if not downright delusional. And yet it is what Filipinos felt at the time, and we should respect their feelings. With a few exceptions, this is how they genuinely felt, and in this, they were no different from the French, the Dutch, the Chinese, Koreans and even Vietnamese. World War II was the last "good war," it is often said, because the good were so clearly differentiated from the bad: Nazism and Italian and Japanese fascism were so bad that imperialists could look good.

After World War II, the peoples and leaders who had looked to the America of Franklin D. Roosevelt were bitterly disappointed by the America of Harry S. Truman. Disappointment with America after World War II—its selfishness, its infuriating conviction that it alone knew what was right and wrong, its ruthlessness in getting what it wanted and lack of gratitude for the sacrifices of its allies—was felt not just by Filipinos, but by the French, and actively opposed by the Chinese and Vietnamese. India, too, under Nehru, tried to foster an independence and solidarity among nations that sought security and dignity through a policy of non-alignment.

Still, a survey of the generation that fought in and lived through the war will show that for the most part, they preferred alliance with the Western powers, imperialist or neo-imperialist to aiding or abetting fascists. Indeed, in recalling the anniversary of the Leyte Landing, what should be remembered is not just the enthusiasm and relief that greeted the return of American forces, but the reasons for that feeling of liberation. Freedom and the desire for it are never wrong. Thankfulness for those who make it possible is never misplaced. Fond memories of an older generation are not for a younger generation to disparage. For freedom gains strength from itself. It took liberation in 1944-45, for us to realize that freedom is not just given, it is earned. And that once earned, it must be earned again, and again.



Generals handling funds now under suspicion

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE TESTIMONY of Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia before the House committee, during which he repeatedly invoked his right against self-incrimination, sounded so much like the testimony of presidential brother-in-law (and now Rep.) Iggy Arroyo on the Jose Pidal bank deposits, during which he also repeatedly refused to answer questions by invoking his right to privacy. In both hearings, the legislators threw up their hands in exasperation and failed to get any information from their witnesses.

But actions speak louder than words. Why would a witness be afraid to talk and incriminate himself if he isn't guilty of something? An innocent person would only be glad to tell everything he knows to prove his innocence, *'di ba*? But silence is the refuge of the guilty, like the Mafia mobsters.

Alas, the House investigation of the former AFP comptroller has turned into a comedy, with the general and his lawyers outwitting the congressmen. They have to find other sources of evidence; they can't get any from the mouth of the accused himself. I think the strategy should be to charge him with unexplained wealth. Make him explain how he acquired all his bank deposits and real estate properties. That would be interesting to hear.

* * *

Because of the Garcia scandal, all AFP generals are now under suspicion, especially those who handle funds. One of them is retired Brig. Gen. Jose S. Ramiscal, who is in trouble simply because he is the president of the formerly cash-rich AFP-RSBS. But unlike Garcia who obviously doesn't want to be subjected to any investigation, Ramiscal wants the charges against him to be heard as quickly as possible. It is the prosecution that is dragging its feet. The case has been percolating in the offices of the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan for several years already.

The case against Ramiscal is simplicity itself. The AFP-RSBS bought 148 separate parcels of land in Laguna for real estate development back when the market was robust, before the Asian economic crisis. The total area purchased was 964,494 square meters. The total amount paid by the AFP-RSBS was P195,852,513 or an average price of P203 per sq. m. The total amount registered at the register of deeds was P28,226,090, or an average price of only P30 per sq. m. What happened to the difference of P167,626,423?

Conclusion: Ramiscal pocketed it. And because of this, Ramiscal is facing at least 148 cases of estafa which, judging by the number, gives the impression that the general must be a hardened criminal.

It is not that simple, Ramiscal told me. I interviewed the general over dinner at our neighborhood coffee shop one night last week, and he gave me the facts and explained what happened. There is no missing P167 million, he said, and he has not pocketed a single centavo.

The 148 parcels of farmland, he explained, were bought through a "consolidator" or broker. The AFP-RSBS did not negotiate directly with the farmers. This was necessary because if it was known that the RSBS was buying their properties and negotiated separately with each farmer, the asking price would rise progressively higher. It was the job of the consolidator to haggle for as low a price as possible, consolidate all the purchased parcels and then turn them over to the RSBS as one parcel.

The RSBS board of trustees approved an acquisition cost of P225 per sq. m., but the consolidator was free to bargain with the owners for a lower price. The difference between the amount paid by the RSBS and the amount actually received by the owners was the fee, or commission of the consolidator. From this, the consolidator would pay the capital gains tax and other taxes due, as well as sundry expenses. What is left after this is his profit.

The law allows the consolidator to unilaterally report to the register of deeds the purchase price. The deeds of sale were signed only by the sellers. Neither Ramiscal nor the RSBS had any part in this.

Based on the findings of Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio in his June 15, 2004 memorandum to the Ombudsman, the average amount actually received by the sellers from the consolidator was P150 per sq. m. But the consolidator registered an average price of only P30 per sq. m. for a total price of P28,226,090 obviously to lower the capital gains tax. This is falsification of public documents for which the consolidator is liable, but not the RSBS or Ramiscal, the latter said.

The acquisition price approved by the board of trustees was P225 per sq. m. but the RSBS paid only an average price of P203 per sq. m., so Ramiscal saved it P22 per sq. m. or a total of P21,218,868.

Since the amount acknowledged to have been received by the sellers from the consolidator was P150 per sq. m. (not only P30 per sq. m. as reported to the register of deeds) and the total area bought was 964,494 sq. m., it logically follows that the amount received by the sellers from the consolidator was P144,674,100.

If the amount paid by the RSBS to the sellers through the consolidator was P195,852,513 and the amount acknowledged by the sellers to have been actually received from the consolidator was P144,674,100, we are looking at a difference of P51,178,413 which possibly went to pay for the capital gains tax, documentary stamp tax, tenants' disturbance fee and consolidator's fee as stipulated in the memorandum of understanding between the RSBS and the consolidator.

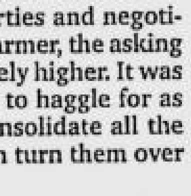
There is no "missing" P167 million.

As for the 148 estafa cases against Ramiscal, it is because each deed of sale was counted as one case. Technically, there are 148 counts of only one case.

Still, strength

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros



THE HERITAGE Foundation's assessment of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the weakest leader in Asia Pacific raises some interesting questions about the nature of weakness and strength.

Heritage itself is confused about the concepts. Decades ago, it found Ferdinand Marcos a strong leader, at least when he did not strike the occasional pose of opposing the United States for local nationalist consumption. In fact, Marcos was a weak leader, notwithstanding that he ruled with an iron fist. The weakness did not lie in that his rule was being challenged from inside, by restive military officers, and outside, by the horde howling at the gates. Nor did it lie in that his kidneys were rotting away from lupus. It lay in the very nature of his rule. Dictatorial rule does not a strong leader make. But I'm getting ahead of my story.

GMA herself uses the concept of a "strong republic." Much of it, of course, is just spin, which is the one thing she excels in. She came to Malacañang gratuitously, through the labors of others, and her claim to the throne being tenuous, she needed to project strength and authority. She surrounded herself with the accouterment of them. Not least rhetorically, "strong republic" being a chief phrase.

All this forces us to ask: What are the true properties of strength? What makes for a strong leader?

It helps to see what it is by seeing what it is not.

Strength is not stubbornness or pursuing things with a one-track mind. Strength is not refusing to apologize to a whistle-blower you falsely accuse of being part of the crime she has blown, and compounding the problem by ordering your police chief to make good your mistake. I remember writing several angry columns at the incredible suggestion of GMA's aides that for her to apologize to Acsa Ramirez would be to show weakness and compromise national security. To this day, she hasn't. She has merely said let bygones be bygones.

Strength is not pursuing power with unyielding obsession. It is not making friends of enemies and enemies of friends to win votes. It is not transforming the one body tasked with ensuring clean elections into the one agency engineered for cheating. It is not ransacking the public treasury to buy an election. Strangely, I have heard people express admiration for this unscrupulous doggedness and describe it as strength. In fact, it is mere pettiness, one with disastrous consequences for the nation. Marcos showed that kind of doggedness, too, and look where it led us.

Strength is first of all strength of character. And strength of character is above all being able to admit mistakes and knowing when enough is enough. It is the ability to look power in the face and shun it. True strength, as "The Lord of the Rings" suggests, is not having the boldness to wear the ring of power and corrupting oneself, it is having the courage to throw the ring into the fires of hell and freeing oneself. As far as that goes, my hat's off to Cory Aquino who had the courage to say no to a second term notwithstanding that it was hers for the taking. That is strength.

Strength is not a martial posture or a predilection for war. Strength is not blindly following a superpower into thrashing about after being wounded and turning gung-ho for arms and war. A posture that can't be lived up to anyway, as GMA's sudden retreat in the face of Angelo de la Cruz's kidnapping shows. The Heritage Foundation's view of GMA as a strong leader during the height of her "war against terror" is an ironic one. The strength is an illusion, though one shared by her civilian and military aides, who gloated at the surplus warplanes that came their way and struck macho poses in the group picture. The only strong thing in all this was the odor it emitted.

Strength is morality, not pugnacity. Strength is reason, not brute force. Strength is the principle "right is might" and not "might is right." The real strength here, as in the United States, was shown by those who refused to be cowed into submission by the mob that howled in the streets and a government that led them on to a lynching. The real strength lay among those who asked why we were doing this and not among those who merely answered that that was what everybody else was doing.

And finally strength is not tyranny. That is the most dangerous illusion of all, the notion that authoritarianism, iron-fisted rule, dictatorship represents strength. "Strongman" is a misnomer, as is "strong republic." A strongman (or woman) is not a strong leader, he is a weak one. A "strong republic" is not a strong political order, it is a weak one. A strong leader does not impose her will on her people, she imposes the will of her people on her. A strong leader does not screw human rights and civil liberties to defend her nation's freedom, a strong leader defends human rights and civil liberties as the very essence of her nation's freedom.

The bigger and more dangerous illusion there is that democracy is a weak system and authoritarianism a strong one. The opposite is true. Democracy is the strongest system of all because it rests on a strong people. The aim of democracy is to make a strong people, not a strong government. The truth of democracy is that a republic is only as strong as its citizens. You can destroy a strong government, you cannot destroy a strong people.

Democracy is not unlike the strongest profession of all, which is teaching. The best teacher is not the one who makes himself indispensable, who will always be there to guide his pupil along. The best teacher is the one who makes himself superfluous, who makes sure his pupil will learn enough to go his own way someday.

GMA is the weakest leader in all of Asia Pacific today. But that is so for reasons the Heritage Foundation will never understand.

It looked so simple

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

IT looked so simple at the start, back in the late 1980s. I had begun saying Mass at Payatas-by-the Dumpsite in 1985, and quickly had become aware not only of the miserable living conditions of the people but specifically of the problem of malnutrition among children, which was often severe enough to be brain-threatening and life-threatening.

So we started a milk-feeding program for third-degree malnourished infants, with money coming from Loyola House of Studies and a few friends, while the weighing of children and distribution of the milk-powder was handled by "Celing," a local volunteer and mother of four. We hardly realized how one little thing would lead to another, into all the pain and complexity of a slum community, and how many dimensions there are to growth itself.

The first crisis came when Celing, who had become the very heart of the feeding program, decided that she should go to Kuala Lumpur as a domestic helper, in order to pay for the education of her children. When I expressed my concern at what this would do to the program, a generous friend offered to provide a monthly allowance, more or less equivalent to what Celing believed she would be able to send home from KL. I told her the good news before Midnight Mass on Christmas. Tears came to her eyes and she said, "This is the happiest Christmas of my life." Since then she has gone on to become not only well-informed on infant nutrition but a paramedic and an all-purpose social worker in the community, assisting in the clinics, getting people into hospitals and watching by them at night, bringing in doctors from the Department of Health when there is an outbreak of cholera, being called to intervene in cases of child abuse, rape and incest in the community.

In her most recent report, Celing was particularly concerned about four problem families: two of them abandoned by their fathers, one in which the mother was reacting to abuse from her drug-dependent husband by beating her children cruelly, one in which the woman had given birth prematurely due to her drunken husband and a neighbor quarrelling in the house. One of the abandoned families we have been able to send back to the province; the other is more difficult as the 24-year-old mother is into drugs, refuses to go for rehabilitation or to give up the children, and cries about her problems in prayer-group sessions.

Celing keeps on walking the dusty and muddy paths of Payatas although she has had heart surgery and a couple of small strokes. She speaks of having grown with the experience and the challenges. Having a wayward husband herself, she can relate to other women with family problems. And her children have been inspired by her example: one is a nutritionist, one a social worker, and one the key trainer in our natural family planning program.

As word of our feeding program got around, contributions began coming in from people we had never met, or knew only slightly. Then one contributor specified that her contribution should go to education, and so willy-nilly we found ourselves giving scholarships. The first went to Juliet, a bright young woman who was working at a dead-end occupation as a high-speed sewer in a sweatshop. We sent her for training as a computer programmer. She started out as a bookkeeper in a small fast-food firm and now is chief of operations of the firm, a leader in the parish community, stretching her thin resources to pay for the education of her six younger siblings. Four others whom we sent for a program in electro-mechanics are now airplane mechanics for Lufthansa. In these days 32 more will graduate from vocational courses with the Don Bosco Fathers and Sisters. The morale and enthusiasm of these young people are contagious and we pray that they will find steady jobs.

Over time we realized that the burden of more children than they could provide for adequately was blighting the lives not only of many families but of the children themselves. So we initiated a natural family planning program, "riding on" the feeding program since the mothers of these malnourished infants appeared to be a natural target. Celing's daughter Jenny, now heads it. The response is very good, with about 100 couples practicing the Billings method and others waiting to be instructed.

Within the past year, Sister "Letty" R.M., with experience in community-based health and basic ecclesial community work, has joined us, and her Bible-study and prayer groups are multiplying. Again they "ride" partly on the feeding program, and so reach many women who are not churchgoers, as well as some members of other faiths. These women appreciate the sessions, and find not only a sense of closeness to God but also support and comfort in their troubles from their fellow members. The members of one group contribute P5 each week to a common fund, which they use to help those in particular difficulties.

In recent months, Doctor "Tex," a medical doctor and Jesuit scholastic, and Doctor 'Jon," who is considering entering the Jesuits, have been helping in the clinic at Payatas built and managed by Sister Domitilla, OSA. They find themselves overwhelmed by the demand, and depressed by the extent of malnutrition, active tuberculosis and primary complex which they find—all indications that the basic problem of poverty has by no means been resolved.

All in all this is costing more than P100,000 a month. Though we have a certain backlog due to a large donation in the past, we are eating into it at an alarming rate. Additional help is always welcome, at the Institute on Church and Social Issues, Ateneo de Manila Campus or P.O. Box 250, UP Post Office, Quezon City.

Leaving a mark

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"BAKAT" is a Cebuano word that means "to leave a mark." It is also the acronym for a new project, a Gender Justice Watch/Bantay Katarungan para sa Kababaihan at Kabataan which will monitor the progress made in prosecuting landmark cases of violence against women and children.

For starters, Bakat will follow the progress made in the investigation of the murder of human rights lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana-Yongco, which, the President assured, would get her "top priority" during a visit to Arbet's wake. It is hoped this will result in the early apprehension and trial of the killer and the mastermind.

Pilipina, Abanse! Pinay, Alternative Law Groups Inc., and the Women and Gender Commission of the AMRSP, the groups behind the founding of Bakat (although other women's groups, including the NCRFW, wanted to take part in the project, too) said in a statement that Bakat will also be monitoring other cases like the parricide case against Ruben Ecleo, in which Arbet was the private prosecutor representing the family of Ecleo's late wife Alma Bacolod; the frustrated parricide case filed by Melissa Mercado-Martel against her husband Robbie Martel; and the promulgation of the rape case filed by Karen Vertido against Davao businessman Jose Custodio.

Bakat will also monitor the enforcement of laws addressing violence against women, including the anti-sexual harassment law (RA 7877), the anti-rape law (RA 8353), the rape victim assistance and protection act (RA 8505), the anti-trafficking law (RA 9208), and most recently, the law against violence against women and their children (RA 9262).

In a statement, the organizers of Bakat said that by carrying out their commitments, "we will not only deliver justice and provide closure to the lives of the victims and survivors, as well as their families and friends; we will also leave a positive mark by restoring our people's faith in the system and sustain their hope that peace and justice, indeed, reigns in our society."

* * *

MANY thanks to Senate President Franklin Drilon for taking time to address the gathering at the memorial services on the Ninth Day Novena yesterday for Arbet. In his talk, Drilon reiterated his support for women's rights and empowerment and recalled how, as justice secretary, he pushed for the prosecution of the accused in such prominent cases as those against Mayor Sanchez in the rape-murder of Eileen Sarmenta, and the fatal shooting of Maureen Hultman by a son of the late Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who was invited to address the gathering, wrote explaining that the memorial Mass and service coincided with an en banc session of the Supreme Court. He did, however, send lawyer Evelyn Dumdum, an officer of the Court, who knew Arbet personally and worked with her on many projects in Cebu, to represent him that morning.

The memorial service would not have been possible, either, without the support of so many friends: Fr. Cesar Marin, S.J., chaplain of the UP-PGH Chapel; Billy Santos, head of the social services department and UP-PGH Women's Desk; Miyen Versoza, executive director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women; Sr. Xavier Bual, chair of the Women and Gender Committee of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines; "Action" for the song rendered in Arbet's memory; and the women of the community organization Pinasama.

* * *

FROM OCT. 24-28, the nation will observe the "First National TOWNS Week," which President Macapagal-Arroyo declared through Presidential Proclamation 652.

Among the activities scheduled is a "Fun Run for Women's Causes" this Sunday, Oct. 24, starting at 5:30 a.m. at the Global City, Fort Bonifacio. Sportswoman (and former senatorial candidate) Bong Coo (TOWNS 1986 for Sports) is the main organizer of the "Fun Run."

On the same day, from 3-8 p.m., TOWNS will observe "Child to Child Peace Day," which will bring children from the former conflict-ridden areas of Central Mindanao to interact with children from Metro Manila. The project, which began since the fighting broke out last year, is coordinated by Dr. June Lopez, TOWNS 1989 for psychiatry.

A symposium on ecological waste management, coordinated by Clarita Aganon, TOWNS 2001 for government service, will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 26 at the Central Luzon State University in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. On the same day, Queena Lee-Chua, TOWNS 2001 for education, will be hosting a Math Games and Puzzles session with students of the Ramon Magsaysay High School on España, Manila.

On Wednesday, Oct. 27, TOWNS will hold "Master Classes with TOWNS Stars" at the Servants of Charity Orphanage in Tandang Sora, coordinated by Cecile Alvarez, TOWNS 1989 for performing arts. At 6 p.m. is the opening of "Women and Environment," a photo exhibit featuring the works of Cora Claudio, TOWNS 1989 for science and technology.

* * *

HIGHLIGHT of the week-long celebration is the TOWNS Awards Ceremony honoring the latest batch of awardees, to be held at 3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 28 in Malacañang, with no less than the President handing out the awards.

The latest "TOWNSwomen" are: Alicia Rita Morales Arroyo for business, Joi Barrios for arts, Madonna Carbon Casimero for science and technology, Ces Oreña Drilon for journalism, Raquel del Rosario Fortun for medicine, Cathy Babao Guballa for public service/children's health care advocacy, Chin-chin Arnaldo for environment protection, Marichu Lambino for law, Aura Castillo Matias for industrial engineering, Deanie Lyn Ocampo for early childhood education, Dina Sandico Ong for arts/fashion, and Blessilda Perez Raposa for education.

MacArthur's account of Leyte landing

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SIXTY years ago today, Douglas MacArthur waded to shore on Leyte and was quoted as saying, "I have returned." The remark was said matter-of-factly, so plainly that it was not recorded, unlike his radio broadcast afterwards that is quoted in full in a number of books I read for this column.

Since we do not want to spoil the fun in Leyte this morning, we won't give space to assertions that the historic photograph of MacArthur returning to the Philippines, with Sergio Osmeña at his side, is not the record of the actual event but of a re-enactment. We leave that for another time.

There have been many commemorations at Leyte in the past, the most memorable of which was a recent re-enactment of the MacArthur landing where the actor slipped and fell on his face.

MacArthur relates the Leyte Landing in his "Reminiscences" as follows:

"We came to Leyte just before midnight of a dark and moonless night. The stygian waters below and the black sky above seemed to conspire in wrapping us in an invisible cloak, as we lay to and waited for dawn before entering Leyte Gulf...Now and then a ghostly ship would slide quietly by us, looming out of the night and disappearing into the gloom almost before its outlines could be depicted. I knew that on every ship nervous men lined the rails or paced the decks, peering into the darkness and wondering what stood out there beyond the night waiting for the dawn to come. There is a universal sameness in the emotions of men, whether they be admiral or sailor, general or private, at such a time as this...Late that evening I went back to my cabin and read again those passages from the Bible from which I have always gained inspiration and hope. And I prayed that a merciful God would preserve each one of those men on the morrow."

Reading this made me realize how complicated it must be to be God. Here was MacArthur praying for victory when the Japanese were surely praying for the same thing from the opposite side of the fence.

Getting back to MacArthur, few people know that he had visited Leyte before 1944 when the US military built the docks there. MacArthur said: "And then just as the sun rose clear of the horizon, there was Tacloban. It had changed little since I had known it forty-one years before on my first assignment after leaving West Point. It was a full moment for me."

Then the event we remember today follows:

"...At Red Beach our troops secured a landing and began moving inland. I decided to go in with the third assault wave. President Osmeña, accompanied by General Basilio Valdez, the Philippine Army Chief of Staff, and General Carlos Romulo, my old aide, who had joined me in Bataan in 1942, had sailed with the convoy on one of the nearby transports. I took them into my landing barge and we started for the beach. Romulo, an old stalwart of the Quezon camp, was the resident commissioner for the Philippines in Washington. Noted for his oratorical ability, this popular patriot served on Bataan, and had been the radio 'Voice of Freedom' from Corregidor.

"As we slowly bucked the waves toward Red Beach, the sound of war grew louder. We could now hear the whining roar of airplane engines as they dove over our heads to strafe and bomb enemy positions inland from the beach. Then came the steady crump, crump, crump of exploding naval shells. As we came closer, we could pick up the shouts of our soldiers as they gave and acknowledged orders. Then, unmistakably, in the near distance came the steady rattle of small-arms fire. I could easily pick up the peculiar fuzzy gurgle of a Japanese machine gun seemingly not more than 100 yards from the shoreline. The smoke from the burning palm trees was in our nostrils, and we could hear the continual snapping and crackling of flames. The coxswain dropped the ramp about 50 yards from shore, and we waded in. It took me only 30 or 40 long strides to reach dry land, but that was one of the most meaningful walks I ever took. When it was done, and I stood on the sand, I knew I was back again—against my old enemies of Bataan, for there, shining on the bodies of dead Japanese soldiers, I saw the insignia of the 16th Division, General Homma's ace unit."

On shore he stood before a broadcasting unit and in the rain said:

"People of the Philippines: I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God our forces stand again on Philippine soil—soil consecrated in the blood of our two peoples. We have come, dedicated and committed to the task of destroying every vestige of enemy control over your daily lives, and of restoring upon a foundation of indestructible strength, the liberties of your people."

When read in a book today, the words seem melodramatic or even corny, but one cannot deny the hope these same words inspired among Filipinos tired of the Japanese and wishing for freedom once more.

MacArthur ended his speech by saying:

"Rally to me. Let the indomitable spirit of Bataan and Corregidor lead on...Strike at every available opportunity. For your homes and hearths, strike! For future generations of your sons and daughters, strike! In the name of your sacred dead, strike! Let no heart be faint. Let every arm be steeled. The Guidance of Divine God points the way. Follow His name to the Holy Grail of righteous victory."

It is not enough to remember the end of the war. Let us hope that we never have to endure war again.

* * *

Comments are welcome at acoampo@ateneo.edu

Outsourcing: boon or bane? (1)

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ABOUT two or three years ago, I first wrote about the potentials of cashing in on the needs of US companies for software development, which they had started contracting out (thus the term "outsourcing") to Third World countries, mainly India, the Philippines and China.

While I knew outsourcing was going to grow rapidly, I didn't realize it would do so at such a rapid pace, and that besides software development, the explosion would cover areas such as call centers. Today, there are some 8,000 Filipino firms engaged in outsourcing activities.

No doubt, there are many potential benefits in outsourcing, but if we are to maximize the gains, we should understand how outsourcing came about in relation to global capitalism, its advantages and disadvantages, and where we are today in this global market. It's also important that we look at the situation soberly, separating the hype from realities.

To do this, I checked different Internet sites but I will be mainly using figures from the Internet site of Offshoring Digest, which examines trends and prospects in outsourcing.

Call centers and software development

Call centers account for the biggest chunk of outsourcing revenues in the Philippines. The call centers are actually customer service units, the "operators" responding to questions from consumers. Thus, someone living in the States and who has encountered difficulties operating a new MP3 player from an American multinational can call a toll-free number to get advice. What the US-based customer may not know is that the customer service representative, speaking with a mild "foreign" accent, is actually based in Manila.

In 2003, there were 20,000 "seats" (job positions) generated by Philippine-based call center firms, and that number was projected to double in 2004. Total revenues were said to have reached some $200 million in 2003. Some P10 billion has been invested to set up over 60 call center firms.

I could not find revenue figures for the other outsourcing segments, but I suspect software development comes in a close second to call centers. Offshoring Digest says there are some 10,000 software developers in the country, about 10 percent of our total number of IT professionals. These developers work for some 200 firms.

Medical transcriptions and animation

Less known than call centers and software development is the market for medical transcriptions, which involves medical reports, discharge summaries, therapy and rehabilitation notes, chart notes and other clinical reports. Under US laws, a doctor or a medical institution will not be paid their fees unless they have filed full medical reports, mainly documenting doctor-patient interactions. Doctors routinely tape their observations, which then have to be transcribed.

There are about 20 medical transcription firms in the Philippines. I could not find total revenue figures for these firms, but Offshoring Digest says that one firm alone, Philippine IT Offshore Network (Piton), had a $2.5 million contract with Health Partners, a US health maintenance organization. Under the contract, Piton will provide some 100,000 lines of medical transcription per day, to increase to 250,000 to 350,000 lines within the first year of the contract.

What human resources are required here? Apparently, a good transcription worker can provide up to 1,000 lines per day at a 98 percent average accuracy rate. They need to be able to provide transcripts within 24 hours; for emergency cases, the output has to be delivered within three to six hours. It's intensive work, and requires a familiarity with English medical terms.

We move now to animation production, which involves a handful of firms. Filipinos mainly do two-dimensional (2D) animation, the more traditional drawing and painting such as what we see with many Walt Disney classics. We've started to compete for the market for 3D animation, which includes computer-generated images, but the high cost of software for such production has limited local firms from getting its share of the market.

Runaway factories

Outsourcing has many exciting potentials, but let's not forget that all these new industries only represent the latest phase in global capitalism.

Labor costs in the United States and other developed countries have always been much higher than in Third World countries, which is one reason we keep losing so many Filipinos seeking greener pastures in countries like the United States, Canada and Australia.

Business people are always looking for ways to maximize profits, mainly by keeping production costs, especially labor, as low as possible. Using cheap migrant labor still comes out expensive, so in the 1970s, we saw the phenomenon of "runaway factories," where American multinationals began setting up shop in Third World countries to take advantage of the lower labor costs. It started with factories across the United States' southern border, in Mexico, but eventually spread to other countries. The Philippines was one of the countries that hosted these factories, mainly those producing garments and electronic components.

The development of information technologies in the last 30 years introduced new opportunities for global capitalism. We plunged into an information revolution, with businesses discovering that profits were to be made not just in the production of material goods but also in the packaging and dissemination of knowledge and information.

Outsourcing was inevitable as the rapid and efficient flow of information and knowledge became more and more important. Note that some aspects of this flow of information and knowledge are part of a continuum of earlier global capitalism. The call centers, for example, are there to provide customer support for products which, although sold by an American multinational, were probably assembled in China, with parts from the Philippines, Mexico and Malaysia.

Note, too, that there's a whole "generic" field of business process outsourcing (BPO), where a US-based firm will contract a Third World group to handle all kinds of information and data tasks. Outsourcing Digest reports that there are 53 registered BPO operators in the Philippines handling "business data processing, database management, finance and accounting services, insurance claims processing, logistics management, human resource administration, and sales and marketing."

In so many words then, there's more to outsourcing than call centers, software development, animation and software development. On Friday, let's see how we can use all this information to maximize the benefits that we might want to reap from outsourcing.

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LETTERS

A symbol of tragedy

NATIONAL artist Napoleon Abueva asks "Is there hope for the return of the Balangiga Bells?" (PDI, 10/06/04) Having researched on the Balangiga incident and the bells issue for a decade, and being familiar with both sides of the debate, I can assure him that there is reason for hope—if the focus is on peace, reconciliation and healing, not on dredging up the hatred in a war of long ago to serve an anti-American agenda.

Had I been an American veteran in 1998 (I am British), and subjected to propaganda attacks, I, too, would have resisted the return of the bells. As Mayor Catalina Camenforte of Balangiga says: "It's past." Balangiga sees the incident as the tragedy it was.

Abueva's fine memorial also implicitly treats it as a tragedy in commemorating all those who fell that day. Over the years, the Balangiga bells have been used and abused for too many political and personal agendas by people who ignored the wishes, desires and opinions of the Balangiganons themselves. I believe it is time to empower Balangiga to seek the return of the bells.

—**BOB COUTTIE,**
Mahogany Street,
Barrio Barretto, Olongapo City

Meralco-IPP rates artificially high

THE LETTER of Meralco's Elpi Cuna (PDI, 9/11/04) for me, carried deceptive undertones. If unchallenged, the public might be misled. Having regularly attended the Energy Regulatory Commission hearings lately, I came to know of relevant data that disprove Cuna's allegations.

Aside from determining the true cost of power, we should identify the true beneficiary of high power costs.

First Gas Power, an independent power producer described by Cuna as "Meralco-affiliated," is majority-owned by the Lopezes.

Meralco is presently under the management of the Lopezes, who are the minority shareholders of the company, whose biggest bloc of shares is held by the Philippine government.

Meralco procures excess and expensive electricity from First Gas Power, leading to Meralco's high generation pass-on cost. For instance, First Gas Provisional Invoice No. 0106-01014 (May 21, 2001 to June 25, 2001) shows a net electrical output of 17,244,000 kWh, for which First Gas billed Meralco P1,116,243,121.31, or the equivalent of P64.75/kWh. This is just one of several documents submitted by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to the ERC.

Cuna argues that the power rate of the National Power Corp. is "artificially low" because of the P0.40/kWh-cap on the PPA (purchased power adjustment). While that may be true, it is not an excuse not to buy from Napocor. While the savings are arguably illusory, the loss and added costs from the expensive Lopez independent power producers (IPP) are very real.

Besides, in 2001, the Napocor, Philpodeco and Duracom rates were almost the same, with Duracom pegged to 95 percent of Napocor; but again, indications of over-recovery in 2000-2001 were evident. Clearly, it was the First Gas and Quezon Power rates that were artificially high. Duracom is also Lopez-affiliated.

Meralco protests at being compared with other Napocor-served distribution utilities. The comparison precisely shows that if Meralco bought all its power requirements from Napocor, our rates will not be high.

Meralco did in fact walk away from its Napocor obligations. The settlement agreement and mediation Cuna cites are precisely the outcome of that walkaway and simply set the penalty Meralco must pay Napocor.

As to Meralco's claim that the rules were changed retroactively when ordered to refund P30 billion, the Supreme Court merely recognized and reiterated the long-standing rule limiting the recovery of costs by utilities to what is prudent, reasonable and necessary, which until then had been ignored by Meralco and tolerated by the ERC.

On the provisional increase reversed by the Supreme Court, if Cuna sat through the 13-hour marathon hearings, he would have known that the Court's ruling was more than just "for reasons of incomplete publication." It was about all the things that the ERC has failed to do to protect consumer interests in the regulatory hearings.

—**WILLY ESPIRITU,**
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Aeropark Subdivision,
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Go after corrupt customs officials

I JUST want to express my reaction to your editorial, "Shame game." (PDI, 10/7/04) The government should start to walk the talk. It has made so many promises to the Filipino people, but the only sure thing happening to our country this far is its continuing economic and moral decline. If its announcement about rounding up the big smugglers and corrupt customs officials was meant sincerely, that would have been a good start; but it still needs to be proven. I hope this won't be another stage show of the current administration to earn brownie points.

I have personally seen how these corrupt customs officials transact their dirty business by asking for "cuts" or "*lagay*" from businessmen and, mind you, they do this up front and in the open. Just how corrupt are these customs officials? Well, one customs official was able to buy a HUMMER ver. 2 vehicle (yes, those really expensive SUVs) and he even has the rashness to display his ID on the windshield. How could a regular customs official with a "normal" salary afford such an expensive car legally?

I know of some rich people who could only dream of owning such a vehicle. I hope the current administration would mean what it says and go after those corrupt officials.

—**EDDIE C. NOPA,**
eddie@c-nopa.ph

Greenhills residents not one in anti-mosque campaign

I WOULD like to thank the INQUIRER for its enlightened and balanced editorial, and for the well-written column, "Chance to pray," of Manuel Quezon III. (PDI, 10/11/04)

I am a resident of North Greenhills and a member of a staunchly Catholic family. By myself, I have converted or reverted to Islam. On my father's side, the Ledesmas, we have several relatives who have become archbishops. The current Philippine ambassador to Washington, Albert del Rosario, is my mother's first cousin.

Our family is an example of diversity, showing that Christians and Muslims, in spite of occasional arguments and disagreements, can still live peacefully together even under one roof. All it took was a little understanding and dialogue to get to know, and not to fear the so-called "other." Those opposing the establishment of a Muslim prayer area in Greenhills do not have the full support of all Greenhills residents. Their campaign of bigotry, which panders to unfounded fears, was launched without consulting the residents. I was surprised to receive a few Saturdays ago, at my Greenhills home, a newsletter full of insults and inaccuracies from a so-called Federation of Greenhills Associations.

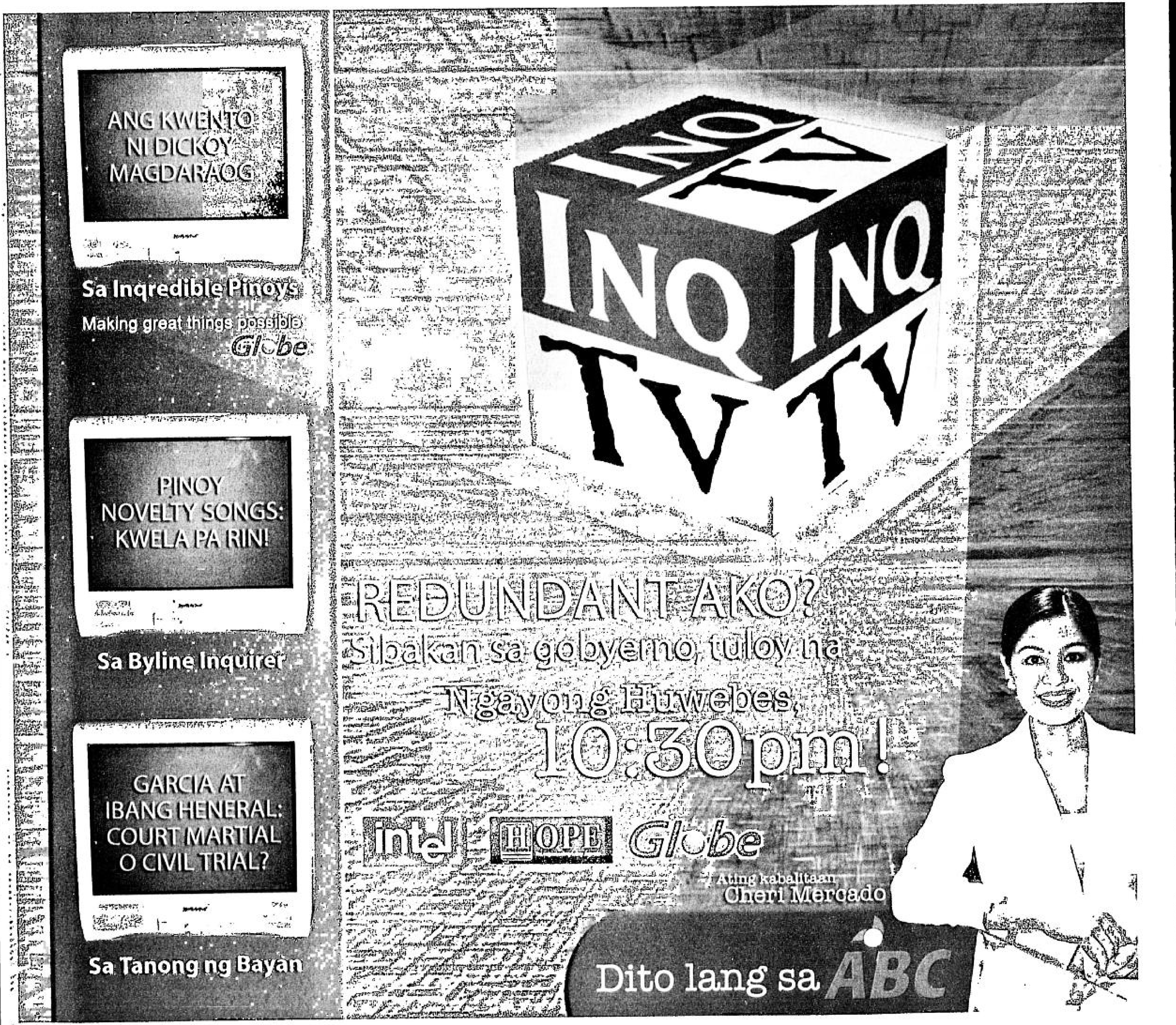
Indeed, by building a prayer room for Muslims, Ortigas & Co. is catering to a need of Muslim Filipinos who, like their Catholic counterparts, are religious by nature. The company has already built a small chapel worth P15 million where the Catholic faithful may worship at Mass every day. This time they are helping Muslims by providing a more decent prayer area to replace the one they are using in a dark alley.

There is no truth that with the new Muslim prayer area, Muslims from other areas will converge on Greenhills and cause serious peace and order problems. Muslims from Quiapo, Taguig, Commonwealth, Mindanao, the Middle East and Turkey, already pray at our Muslim prayer area on Fridays, and there has been no increase in the area's crime statistics.

What will bring down property value is the negative impression that the so-called "federation" has been spreading: that Greenhills is now a place of conflict between Muslims and Christians, and is a potential peace and order nightmare.

However, I have been told that the real reason the opposers don't want the establishment of the Muslim prayer area is it's going to be placed in front of a school, which is owned by one of its leaders. We would like therefore to call on them to please stop using the name of the Greenhills residents in this campaign of hate and agitation for selfish, personal motives. The rest of the Greenhills residents would like to live and pray in peace, and return to the atmosphere of accommodation and peaceful co-existence prevailing before the hate campaign started.

—**YUSUF LEDESMA**
(aka Jose Ernesto Ledesma),
113 Kennedy St.,
North Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila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Question of the Week

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(Maximum of 160 characters)

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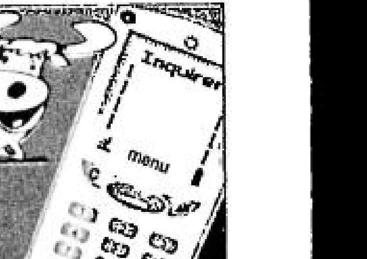


E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Baguio artist promotes folk art through terracotta sculpture

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

STABBED by nostalgia in the land of jalapeños, Baguio-based artist Roberto "Bob" Acosta in 2001 decided to take a lump of clay and mold it into a Kalinga woman.

Taking nostalgia into its deeper meaning, which is "finding comfort in stimuli invocative of the past," Acosta gouged out a circle where her heart should have been. He etched Cordillera motifs around the circle and gave her shawl the red color of jalapeño peppers and the betel nut back home.

If you peep into the hole, you would see a small *bul'ol* or rice granary guardian.

When the Kalinga woman came out of the kiln of the artist's studio in Universidad Veracruzana (UVC) in Xalapa, Mexico, Acosta found his calling.

Under the tutelage of Maestro Javier Petrilli of UVC, Acosta learned more about terracotta sculpture. It also helped that the anthropological museum in Xalapa had those massive Olmec heads.

Did you watch "Legends of the Hidden Temple" on Nickelodeon with that huge talking rock face named Olmec? The biggest Olmec head in Xalapa is eight feet high.

DAP-AY TI CORDILLERA

Acosta was also intrigued by the moche pottery of Peru. An ancient culture there known as Mochica left a trove of pottery like ceramic vessels and bottles in the form of men, women, animals and deities. Other moche pottery has line drawings of their war exploits on the side of the jars.

Democratization

With his Kalinga woman with the *bul'ol* heart, Acosta came back from his eight-month stay in UVC in March 2002 with a new vision/mission: "The democratization of art, that is, to break away from its present elitist form and to work toward more appreciation for folk art through terracotta sculpture."

Since his return to the University of the Philippines Baguio where he teaches fine arts, Acosta has made about 50 terracotta pieces.

Almost all of Acosta's works depict peasants. "Many of them are my memories of the Ibaloi women I met from my trek to Mt. Pulag," he said.

His works are not merely anthromorphological. Their tattoos play with the character. Their clothes are like Joseph's magical coat, telling a story about how Acosta got to meet them.

This, he said, was influenced by Baguio-based painter Leonard Aguinaldo and Beatriz Aurora of Chiapas state in Mexico, artists who portrayed epics in their paintings.

Etched on the chest of his "Kapre" is a *balete* tree. On the side of an Ifugao woman is Acosta mountain-biking along the rice terraces. Cordillera symbols jump out of Acosta's works, literally, like the small frog, symbolizing fertility, held up by an Ibaloi woman.

Smiling children peek out from their slings behind their mother. A woman wears a dress which has the favorite text message among Baguio residents—*Ania ngay* (What now)?—written on it.

His most popular work is the Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the miraculous Our Lady of Heaven, who appeared more than 400 years ago to an Indian peasant in Mexico City and is known for her veil of stars and the rays emanating from all around her body.

'Cordillerified'

In the commissions of Guadalupe, Acosta had her "Cordillerified" in his own vision, giving her a Filipino nose and a veil from various Cordillera tales.

During the last Holy Week, he watched "The Passion of The Christ" in Baguio and compared it to how festive the city was during that solemn time.

He created a morose Christ with thorns on his back and eight happy men, women and children apparently illustrating the seven deadly sins.

Surprisingly, it doesn't have the pathos one would expect from an Ang Kiukok, but it is still reminiscent of how Filipinos make fiestas of everything sad that happens to them.

When he started working with terracotta, Acosta went to Balbalasang in Kalinga and Sagada in Mt. Province to meet with the potters there and examine their clay.

"I dug at their source," Acosta said.

He decided that the clay from Vigan City in Ilocos Sur and La Union was the most suitable for his works. Vigan clay is the most durable, much needed by the intricate figures of Acosta.

He also uses *engobe* or colored slips of clay, which he buys in La Union. The black, white, red, yellow, tan and brown engobe accentuate his figures.

Working in his studio in UP Baguio, he churns out about 10 at a time before having them fired in the gas kiln of his friend Jeff Van Der Broek in Baguio. Acosta does about two firings a year.

Last year, Acosta was included with Lanelle Abueva, Jecky Alano, Ugu Bigyan, Charito Bitanga, Alan Cabalfin, Pete Cortes, Aba Dalena, Jaime de Guzman, Fidel Go, Julie Lluch, Baidy Mendoza, Hadrian Mendoza, Shozo Michikawa, Jon and Tessy Pettyjohn, Nelfa Querubin-Tompkins, Lia Tayag and Van Der Broek in "Putik," featuring 100 works of these clay sculptors.

Acosta said he first felt out of place among some of these sculptors who had been kneading clay for decades, but his inclusion was enough assurance that he was doing something exemplary.

There was no clue to Acosta's artistic evolution that he would shift his medium to clay, unless one includes swimming in a carabao hole in his hometown of Solano in Nueva Vizcaya.

Acosta cannot recall not sketching or dreaming to become a basketball star. He graduated from the UP College of Fine Arts in 1980 and then took up Bachelor of Arts in Landscape Architecture, also in UP, where he graduated in 1987. He worked as a landscape architect for Kolkowitz, Kusske and Grove in the United States from 1987 to 1990.

He returned to teach in UP Baguio in 1991 and has stayed there since.

Sometimes he can be a vocal critic of Baguio politicians and subdivision developers bent on "concretizing" the city. He said there were ways to blend houses and structures with the landscape without sacrificing pine trees.

First love

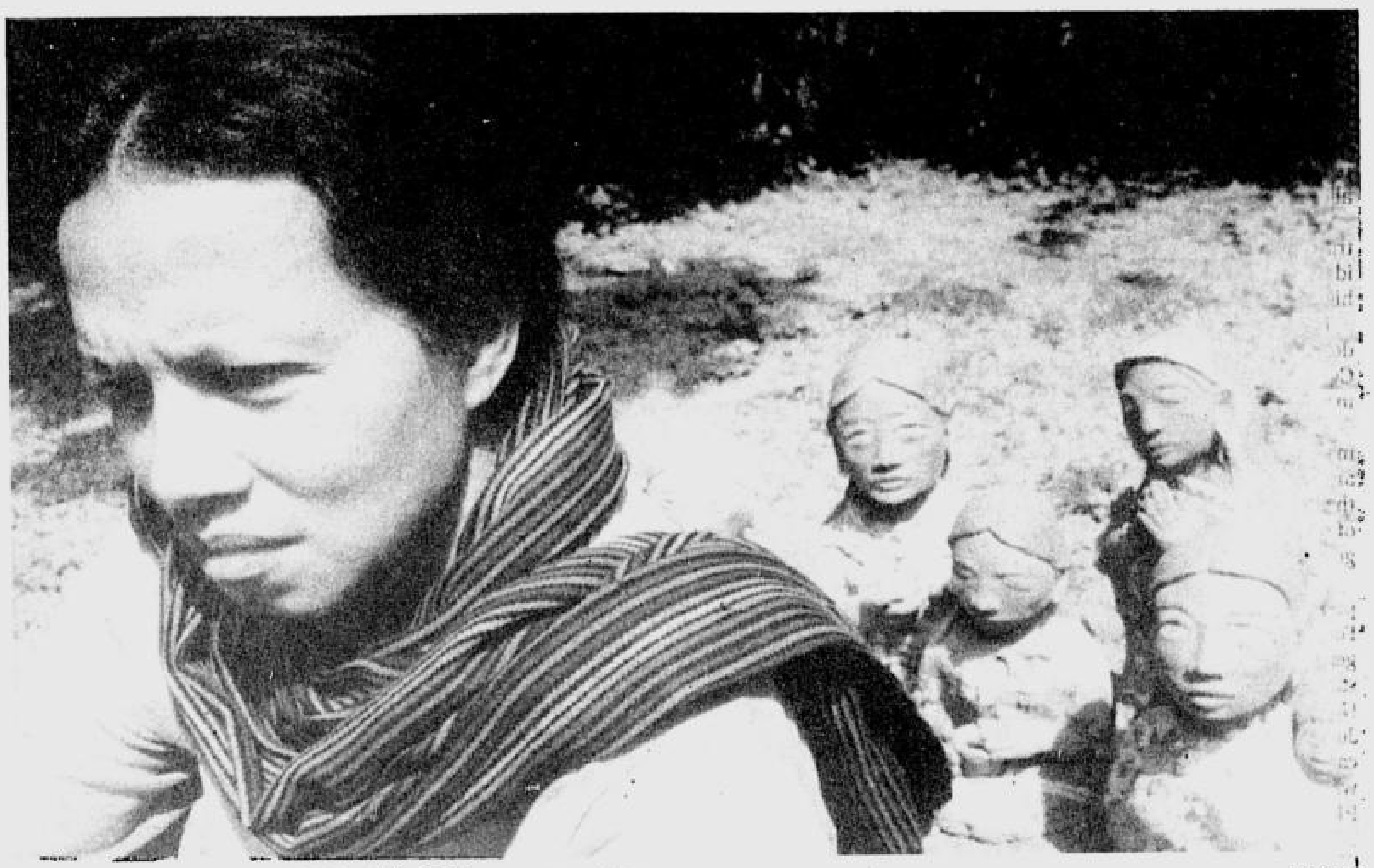
Painting has been his first love and for his dissertation, he drew the different moods of Mt. Pulag in "Mountains and Rivers Without End," inspired by a passage from a Gary Snyder poem.

He also had an exhibit with the Baguio Arts Guild of vendors and ordinary men playing Brick Game and other ways to while the time.

A health buff, Acosta spends most of his time hiking, mountain biking, reading Latin American poetry and novels, eating beans and drinking Cerveza Negra.

But let him near a lump of clay and you have captured his attention.

"It is very accessible, organic, plastic, malleable. It is very primal, primitive and close to earth," he said, describing clay and maybe himself.



ARTIST Roberto Acosta and his 'Cordillerified' terracotta sculptures.

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01-31	Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-31	MAMMA MIA!
01-31	Tan Swie Hian
01-03	Sing Song
05-07	Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
09-31	Hari Raya Light-Up
14-22	Navarathiri Festival
14-31	Pilgrimage to Kusu Island
15-31	Deepavali Light-Up 2004
24	Action Asia Challenge

NOVEMBER

01	Theemidhi Festival
01-30	Fabric of the Nation exhibition
01-30	Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-30	Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-30	MAMMA MIA!
01-30	Tan Swie Hian
01-14	Deepavali Light-Up 2004
01-14	godoaigod
06-15	Disney Live! Winnie the Pooh and the Perfect Day
11-12	Dances of the Orient
11	Deepavali
13-21	Singapore International Buskers Festival
13-30	Christmas in the Tropics 2004
14	Hari Raya Puasa
15-21	Singapore Badminton Open
16-21	The Little Match Girl
20-21	Singapore River Regatta
20-30	Rumpelstiltskin
23-30	Sesame Street Live Everyone Makes Music
25	BONEY'M LIVE 2004'
26-30	Warisan Kita Festival
26-30	Nickelodeon's Christmas by the Bay
26-30	Family Festival
27	Kavyarasa

DECEMBER

01-31	Fabric of the Nation exhibition
01-31	Crossroads: Collective Works of Second Generation Artists
01-31	Ju Ming 2004 Singapore-Beijing-Shanghai Asian Sculpture at its Best
01-31	MAMMA MIA!
01-31	Christmas in the Tropics 2004
01-03	Sesame Street Live Everyone Makes Music
01-04	Warisan Kita Festival
01-05	Family Festival
01-09	Nickelodeon's Christmas by the Bay
01-12	Rumpelstiltskin
01-19	Tan Swie Hian
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Anti-gambling radioman murdered

By Bert Pacate
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—On Monday, Eldy Sablas delivered his last on air report from the Tandag police station.

During the past days, Sablas, co-host of the radio program "Singgit sa mga Lunsuranon" (Cry of the townspeople) over dxJR-FM, had been talking about last-two gambling operations in many towns of the province and the proliferation of drugs, naming and warning suspected drug lords to stop their illegal activities.

It was also on the same day that an irate Gov. Vicente Pimentel phoned the radio station and lambasted Sablas for allegedly mentioning his name in connection with his alleged illegal activities such as receiving bribe from drug traffickers, gambling operators and illegal loggers.

On Tuesday morning, barely 24 hours after the governor's phone call, Sablas, 30, lay dead inside a tricycle, which he boarded after buying something from Ultra Marketing, a department store along the busy national highway here.

A lone gunman shot him three times in the head and in the body, using a .45 cal. pistol, around 10 a.m.

Police said the gunman walked behind the slow-moving vehicle from the department store.

Tandag police Chief Insp. Amil Bakil said they have no suspect yet although the police were following up several leads.

In Butuan City, the Professional Responsible and Organized Media of Caraga (PRO-Media of Caraga) condemned the Sablas murder.

Celso Licup, PRO-Media president, said Sablas' death was the second in the region dominated by political warlords, who do not want being criticized.

Last year, Rico Ramirez, a radio reporter, fell to an assassin's bullet while on his way to work in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

Licup said he hopes the Sablas murder would not end up unsolved like what happened to the Ramirez case and most cases of attacks against journalists.

Inday Varona, chair of the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines, told the INQUIRER that it was likely Sablas was killed due to his stance against drugs and illegal gambling in Surigao del Sur.

Varona said it was also possible that politicians who became objects of Sablas' criticisms were behind his death.

She described the killing of the journalist and other media practitioners in the country as manifestation of "a breakdown of the justice system."

"They (perpetrators) want to impress on everyone that they can really shoot just anybody. These are the people who want to silence the justice system in the Philippines," she said.

Sablas was the third journalist killed in Mindanao this year and the 8th for the Philippines. *With reports from Dennis Jay Santos and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

HOW OLD IS YOUR HEART?

A 26-year old can have a heart age of a 40-year old, while a 59-year old can have a heart age of someone half his age. Simply put, young doesn't always necessarily equate to being healthy.

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☐ **BLOOD PRESSURE** - 140/80 mmHg or above confirms hypertension.

☐ **SMOKING**

☐ **DIABETES** - Those who are afflicted with types I and II diabetes for 15 years or more have increased cardiac risk.

☐ **CHOLESTEROL** - A reading of 200mg/dL (6.2 mmol/L) or above is a dangerously high level.

☐ **LIFESTYLE** - Sedentary individuals are more prone to high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type II diabetes.

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26...36...49...57...

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ROUNDUP

Poor get 'free' cards

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LUCENA CITY—In support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's preferential treatment for the poorest of the poor, Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. distributed "Serbis Bilis Program Cards" to at least 1,300 poor families here last week. The cards would serve as the recipients' ID card for quick access to different local government agencies in charge of providing free basic services to the needy like medical, legal, burial, livelihood, education, travel and other social benefits. Talaga ordered all local government agencies to provide "immediate and no-questions-asked" assistance to all cardholders. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Vigilantes kill 2

DAVAO CITY—Suspected vigilante gunmen struck anew, after nearly a month of hiatus, and killed at least two persons here within a 24-hour period. On Wednesday morning, the nearly decapitated body of an unidentified victim was found dumped near the Sto. Niño Shrine Hills in Barangay Matina. Police found a handwritten letter that read: "*Ako ay* serial rapist. *Huwag tularan* (I am a serial rapist. Do not emulate). On Tuesday midnight, a suspected vigilante hit man shot to death a 23-year-old female nursing student while wounding another inside a videoke bar along Camus Street in the downtown area. Analie del Carpio, a resident of Solariega Subdivision, died of shots in the head and body. Her companion, Carlo Rivera, 22, of Margarita Village in Barangay Bajada, was rushed to the hospital. Police said the suspect fled on a motorcycle.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Family shot to death

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A family of three, including a nine-month-old baby, was shot to death inside their home in Barangay Polo, Olutanga in Zamboanga Sibugay on Friday night. Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, police chief for Western Mindanao, identified the victims as Ibrahim Asimudin, his wife Salma and their nine-month-old baby Edsmar. The family was sleeping when unidentified suspects barged inside their home and started firing, Querol said. Police could still not say the motive behind the killing. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Seedlings for trees

CITY OF MALOLOS—The city government has replaced the 70 trees cut along the MacArthur Highway here with 2,100 narra and mahogany seedlings. The seedlings were turned over by the city government to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in exchange for the trees cut for the rehabilitation and widening of the highway. Raven Ramos, city tourism officer, said the replacement seedlings came from the local government nursery in Barangay Mambog. Mayor Danilo Domingo said they cut the trees to construct an alternative route to the North Luzon Expressway.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 rebels charged

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Two suspected New People's Army rebels were charged with illegal possession of firearms before the Isabela prosecutor's office after they were arrested in an encounter in Barangay Dicamay Dos in Jones town. Lt. Col. Roger Madalogdog, 5th Infantry Division assistant chief of staff for civil-military operations, said the suspected rebels were identified as Rolando Butwagon, 28, alias Ka Ched of Maddela, Quirino, and Marlon Aglugub, 32, alias Ka Mike of San Mariano, Isabela. Two unlicensed guns were seized from them, Madalogdog said. He said the two rebels claimed they were members of the NPA's Southern Front operating in Jones, San Guillermo and Echague towns in Isabela and Maddela in Quirino. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ilocos councilor slain

BURGOS, Ilocos Sur—A town councilor was shot and killed in Barangay Ambugat here on Sunday night. Councilor Delfin Escobar, 62, who was serving his second term, was checking his *palay* spread out for drying on a basketball court when two men wearing ski masks and armed with an M-16 Armalite rifle shot him. Escobar died instantly. The victim's son, Delfin Jr., claimed that politics or a personal grudge could be behind the killing. The slain councilor, a first cousin of Mayor Nathaniel Escobar, was a member of the local opposition.
Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

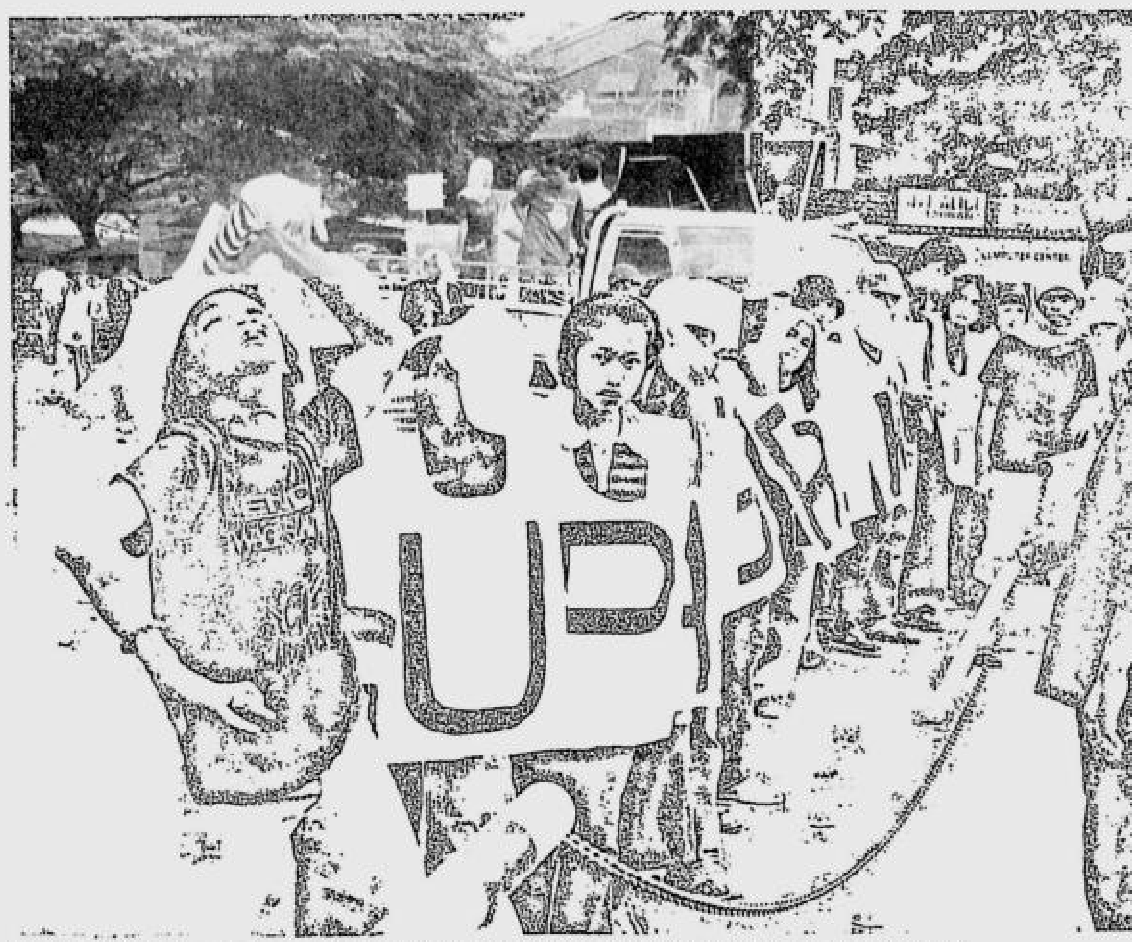
1,000 farmers, workers protesting Cavite land conversion dispersed

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—More than 1,000 militant farmers and workers calling for the immediate ouster of Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi were dispersed with water cannons as they stormed the provincial capitol building here Monday.

No one was reported hurt during the altercation between protesters and the police.

The protesters, who came from different towns of the province, denounced Maliksi for his policies that allegedly allowed rampant land conversion in the province and the proliferation of the "no union, no strike policy" inside Cavite's industrial zones.

They formed a human chain and positioned themselves in front of the capitol building as early as 9 a.m.


SOME of 1,000 protesters prior to their dispersal Monday gather at the Cavite provincial capitol.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Renato Alvarez, chair of Kamagsasaka-Ka, a farmers' organization in Cavite, said Maliksi's decision to allow big real estate corporations to "illegally" convert agricultural lands into residential and commercial use "killed" local farmers and their livelihood.

"We are fed with Maliksi's promises. He is killing us slowly. Three years of hardships under his leadership is more than enough for us. He simply has to go," Alvarez said.

He said since Maliksi took over the leadership of the province, almost half of Cavite farmlands devoted to rice, coffee and other crops were transformed into subdivisions, industrial enclaves and commercial areas.

The INQUIRER tried to get the reaction of Maliksi but he refused to answer numerous calls on his mobile phone.

Instead, Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla and some members of the provincial council met with the leaders of the protesters in a dialogue.

Alvarez said the governor had favored moneyed investors who are being accused of grabbing land from small farmers.

He also asked Maliksi to help them in their call for the immediate removal of the composite units of the Philippine Marines and the Philippine Air Force in Maragondon.

He said the government troops had been sowing terror among residents in the upland communities.

The farmers then raised their call for a P15 increase in *palay* prices and brought dried coffee trees to dramatize the supposed demeaning status of coffee farmers in Cavite.

Alvarez's group was joined by members and supporters of the Solidarity of Cavite Workers and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Cavite who also slammed Maliksi for failing to protect the rights of workers employed inside the industrial zones.

Some residents and employees of the provincial capitol likewise joined the protesters as they denounced the alleged compromise agreement that Maliksi entered into on a contested 26-hectare lot owned by the Cavite government.

The lot is located at the heart of this city and is being occupied by thousands of residents and several government offices, including the capitol and the city hall.

In a related development, farmers in Southern Tagalog continued to hold simultaneous actions to express their discontent over continued government neglect of agriculture, increases in petroleum and consumer prices, and the resulting widespread hunger among their families, a militant peasant group leader said yesterday.

"The army of landless farm workers is growing at an alarming rate as thousands of small farmers and their families are disenfranchised and robbed of their right over the land," Guillermo Bautista, chair of the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan, said in a phone interview.

According to Bautista, seven out of 10 farmers now are landless farm workers. *With a reports from Marlon Ramos and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

US-trained soldiers sent to hunt NPAs in Mindanao areas

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga ordered the deployment of US-trained troops to north and southeastern Mindanao because of the alleged increase in the activities of communist rebels in the regions.

Senga said the US-trained soldiers, whose exact number he did not specify, would join other troops being re-deployed to the said regions.

"The communists are becoming aggressive and bolder in their attacks and we want to add muscle to the current forces in the area to maintain the military's momentum against them," Senga said on Monday.

More than 10 communist rebels have been killed in recent days in the regions because of clashes with soldiers.

On Oct. 3, heavily armed New People's Army guerrillas ambushed and killed at least four police officers in Baganga, Davao Oriental.

Prior to the encounter, Army troopers killed nine rebels during a raid in Pantukan, Compostela Valley.

Senga said despite becoming more aggressive, the NPA was not increasing in number.

"We need to sustain our gains and it is imperative that we also maintain the momentum in doubling up our efforts by adopting new strategies to fight (them)," he said.

Senga said the areas identified for redeployment were Compostela Valley, the Agusan provinces, the Surigao provinces and some areas of North Cotabato.

In Davao City, a rightist group alleged that the NPA was plotting to "liquidate" four ranking military officials in Southern Mindanao.

Pastor Alcover, national chair of the Alliance for National Democracy (ANAD), said NPA rebels headed by Leonardo Pitao alias Commander Parago would carry out the supposed liquidation.

Alcover, a former rebel leader and organizer based in Central Visayas, said he got the information from an agent, who managed to penetrate the rebels.

He said the officials were marked for liquidation because of their active campaign against the insurgents.

Alcover said he was told that an NPA team had already been dispatched to carry out the plot against Task Force Davao commander Col. Eduardo del Rosario, 5th Civil Relations Group chief Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, former Military Intelligence Group commander Lt. Col. Allen Capuyan, and former Intelligence Service Unit chief Major Jose Faustino. *Julie Alipala and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pampanga health workers to get smaller hazard pay

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—More than 800 provincial health workers in Pampanga on Monday capped their two-year campaign for their hazard pay with mixed dismay and joy, getting only less than half of the amount guaranteed by law.

Gov. Mark Lapid wound up the two-hour negotiation by assuring at least P600 monthly from July to December 2004 and P1,000 monthly in 2005.

These amounts are way below the 25 and 5 percent set under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers (Republic Act 7305) for those with Salary Grade 19 and below and Salary Grade 20 and up, respectively. The amount is supposed to reach between P2,000 and P3,000 monthly.

Lapid said the benefit pay for this year's six-month period would be drawn from the P3-million income of the province's 10 district hospitals, where the health workers are assigned.

They comprised less than 50 percent of the capitol's 1,800 employees.

Lapid approved the provision of P1,000 in monthly hazard pay next year after the local finance committee and Board Member Lilia Pineda, chair of the local health committee, agreed to put the item in the 2005 budget.

Lapid bucked the plan to source the funds for next year's hazard pay from the excess income of hospitals, saying doing this might lead to patients paying more for medical services.

Dr. Ernesto Santos, provincial health chief, also struck out the plan, calling this "anti-patient." More than 80 percent of the patients were poor and those availing of the pay wards were also members of PhilHealth, he said.

The negotiation, attended by almost 100 representatives of doctors, nurses and attendants who did not abandon their duties amid the protest, was stopped thrice.

The governor, who initially took a hard stance, citing the fiscal crisis and below average tax revenue collection, later heeded appeals to include the item in the 2005 budget.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

GMA, Bush did not sign UN statement on women

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—More than 250 global leaders, including 85 heads of state and government, have signed a statement reaffirming a 1994 United Nations plan to help promote women's rights to education, health care, reproductive health and family planning.

But absent from the long list of leaders who reaffirmed the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) statement adopted by 179 countries in 1994 were President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush, according to officials of a Philippine non-government organization.

Chi Vallido, deputy executive director of the Philippine NGO Council for Health, Environment and Development (PNGOC), said Ms Arroyo and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit were invited by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to sign the statement.

"She has to sign it because it is our country's commitment and we have to renew that commitment," Vallido said.

Ms Arroyo has yet to issue a statement on why she has not signed the statement although former President Fidel Ramos has asked that his name be included in the document.

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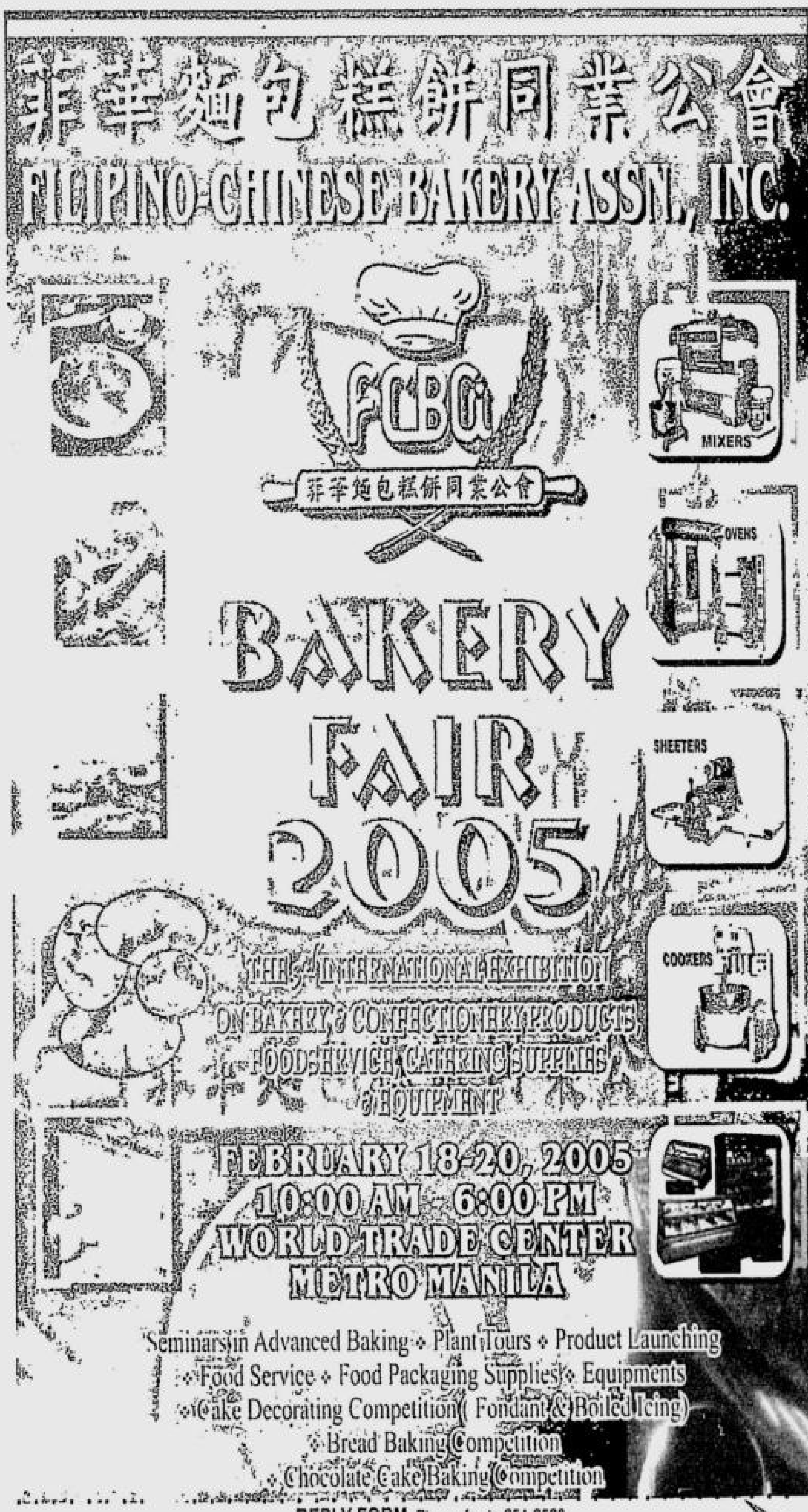
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Aussie band sings for Carl, Clarence

From page A1

and "Monkey Dance" during their two-hour visit, along with lullabies for some sleeping patients.

Mayor's award

New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg honored some of the city's most gifted scientists with the Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Science and Technology, including the surgical team at Montefiore Medical Center who made history with the series of operations to separate the Aguirre twins.

Although the fourth of these operations was completed on Aug. 4, which was after the deadline for the Mayor's Awards, Bloomberg was intent in lauding the historic accomplishment. He created a special category so the entire team of doctors and nurses at Montefiore Medical Center could be honored.

During ceremonies at City Hall last Wednesday, the mayor presented the special award to lead surgeon Dr. James Goodrich, plastic surgeon Dr. David Staffenberg, the CHAM team and Dr. Spencer Foreman, president of Montefiore Medical Center.

Historic 1st for New York

"In life, when something happens that is so compelling and important, you have to recognize it," Bloomberg said, referring to the historic operation which was a first for the New York hospital.

The conjoined twins were separated using a gradual surgical approach that lasted 10 months, a departure from the more common marathon operations that had separated other conjoined twins.

Reconstruction of the boys' skulls, a major project, was to be left for later.

DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT: Dr. David Staffenberg greets former conjoined twins Clarence and Carl Aguirre as they visit the Children's Hospital at Montefiore for a series of tests on Friday with mother Arlene Aguirre.

MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER

"The eyes of the world were on the Bronx as the hospital prepared for an intricate and dangerous surgery. The final surgery took place on Aug. 5, and the rest is history. Thank goodness they continue to do well—better than anybody expected, " Bloomberg said.

Staffenberg said the twins' recovery had exceeded everyone's expectations. "The time between surgeries has allowed them to make tremendous strides. The biggest improvement has been in head posture, and the way they have been taking cues from each other in physical therapy," he said.

Staffenberg added that the rebuilding of the skulls would be done in two or three stages. "The key is to get them back into physical therapy again."

Goodrich said the twins were "doing strikingly well," noting the difference in boys' personalities. "Carl, the laid-back, lazy boy has become more in-your-face, while Clarence has taken a completely different tack," he said.

"Both have remained neurologically intact throughout the procedure. Both have the legs of oxen. They're picking up on their head control. The physical therapists feel that they'll be walking by December," Goodrich said.

Plastic surgeon honored

The successful separation of the Aguirre twins has also created a worldwide awareness of the important role of plastic surgery in these complex cases.

Staffenberg was recently honored in a special "Frontiers in Plastic Surgery" panel at the annual conference of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), the largest plastic surgery specialty organization in the world.

He will continue the reconstructive process with smaller operations when the Aguirre twins are physically ready.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 20, 2004
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 3:2-12
Gospel: Lk 12:39-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "Pay attention to this: If the master of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, did you tell this parable only for us, or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Imagine, then, the wise and faithful steward whom the master sets over his other servants to give them food rations at the proper time. Fortunate is this servant if his master on coming home finds him doing his work. Truly, I say to you, the master will put him in charge of all his property.

"But it may be that the steward thinks: 'My Lord delays in coming,' and he begins to abuse the menservants and the servant girls, eating and drinking and getting drunk. Then the master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he doesn't know. He will discharge his servant and number him among the unreliable.

"The servant who knew his master's will, but did not prepare to do what his master wanted, will be punished with sound blows; but the one who did what deserved a punishment without knowing it shall receive fewer blows. Much will be required of the one who has been given much, and more will be asked of the one entrusted with more."

Commentary

The geometry of the heart becomes even more strange when we think of it in relation to God. St. Augustine, the great 5th century seeker after God, wrote, "God is within the inmost heart, yet the heart has wandered away from him." And referring to Christ he wrote, "For he did not delay, but ran through the world, crying out by words, deeds, death, life, descent, ascension—crying aloud to us to return to him. And he departed from our sight that we might return to our hearts and find him there." As in everything that Augustine wrote, there is an inner resonance. Some people write about God and the human spirit as if they were writing about nuts and bolts. Or if they have any sense of wonder they reserve it for the physical universe. "People go out," Augustine wrote, "and gaze in astonishment at high mountains, the huge waves of the sea, the broad reaches of rivers, the ocean that encircles the world, or the stars in their courses. But they pay no attention to themselves."

To keep gazing into one's own heart could be one of two things: it could be pure egoism, or it could be a search for God. It depends on how we approach it and do it. We in the present age find it natural to look inwards, but we are not always seeking God there. As soon as we open the door even one inch, a thousand things blow in there as well! In old-fashioned language we have to "keep vigil at the door of the heart."

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (FAMILY CODE)—Presumption of equality of contribution—Petitioners' reliance on Article 148 of the Family Code is misplaced. A reading of Article 148 readily shows that there must be proof of "actual joint contribution" by both the live-in partners before the property becomes co-owned by them in proportion to their contribution. The presumption of equality of contribution arises only in the absence of proof of their proportionate contributions, subject to the condition that actual joint contribution is proven first. Simply put, proof of actual contribution by both parties is required, otherwise there is no co-ownership and no presumption of equal sharing. Petitioners failed to show proof of actual contribution by Pacita in the acquisition of Lot No. 152. In short, petitioners failed to prove that Pacita bought Lot No. 152 with her own money, or that she actually contributed her own money to acquire it. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, First Division, Villanueva vs Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 143286]

BY R. B. VERA

FILIPINO nurses are a "hot commodity" elsewhere.

RP world's top ...

From page A1

Filipino nurses was grossly underreported because hospitals abroad, particularly those in the United States, were directly recruiting the health workers as immigrants.

NIH Executive Director Jaime Galvez-Tan said yesterday that the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the agency tasked with facilitating the deployment of OFWs, recorded only 84,843 nurses who left the country since 1994.

POEA data showed that 91 nurses left for the United States in 2000, 304 in 2001 and 320 in 2002. The United States is one of the top destinations of Filipino health workers.

Records from the countries of destination, however, revealed that around 50,000 nurses had left the Philippines over the past three years. A number of them were doctors who studied nursing so they could leave the country for greener pastures.

"Health workers have left the country before, but never in the history of the Philippines has this happened. You have 50,000 nurses leaving ... in three years. We need to do something now," he said.

"Do you actually believe that only a few hundreds have left in the past three years? Even our foreign counterparts know that's not true," Galvez-Tan told reporters in an interview after a lecture at the UP Manila College of Nursing.

Galvez-Tan presented the study titled "The Philippine Phenomenon of Nursing Medics: Why Doctors are Becoming Nurses" before a conference of the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates in Washington D.C. last week.

He said that the Philippines, India and South Africa were invited to the conference attended mostly by recruiting countries to discuss their roles in the medical work force of the world.

The Philippines was acknowledged as the top supplier of nurses while India was the No. 1 source of doctors. South Africa also exports health workers.

Shocking health situation

"They were shocked when showed that while the Philippines was a glossy exporter of nurses and doctors, our health situation is shocking," said Galvez-Tan, who is also UP Manila's vice chancellor for research.

About 60 percent of the nurses in the United Kingdom are foreigners, majority of them Filipinos. Galvez-Tan said Filipinos were now the biggest ethno-linguistic group in England.

From 2000 to 2004, some 8,000 Filipino nurses left for the United Kingdom, according to data from the POEA, but the UK registry itself recorded 16,000 Filipino nurses who got employed in the country during the period.

Relaxed US policy on doctors

The American government has also relaxed its policy on the practice of foreign doctors in the United States, Galvez-Tan said.

Washington previously required foreign doctors studying in the United States to go back to their countries for a two-year residency, but this requirement has been discarded so the foreign specialists could serve in its poorer areas.

Galvez-Tan said the United States would need 10,000 doctors and 100,000 nurses every year for the next 20 years.

The Philippines has 418 nurses for every 100,000 people or one for every 239 people. One of the country's premier state hospitals is losing 300 to 500 of its nurses to foreign employment abroad every year, according to Galvez-Tan.

Hunt for rich generals shifts to PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra

NEXT chapter in the continuing saga of controversies in these fair isles: the hunt for millionaires in the Philippine National Police.

Pushed by the scandal now hounding the military, the PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS) has mobilized its 800 men to go after those who might have made fortunes from dirty tricks.

For a start, Inspector General Alexis Canonizado has ordered Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos, police director for personnel records, to furnish his office a copy of the statement of assets and liabilities (SAL) of each member of the 115,000-strong force in the last five years.

First up is Aglipay

First up for investigation is PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay, followed by at least 70 ranking officials, including the controversial Director Eduardo Matillano, alleged keeper of a Jaguar sedan confiscated from a suspected drug trafficker.

"We'll segregate the questionable from the nonquestionable SALs. Those with questionable SALs, we'll make them explain how they acquired such big assets," Canonizado told reporters.

He said the documents were expected to be submitted late this week at the earliest, and would then be examined by lawyers, auditors and officials of the Office of the Ombudsman.

But the IAS is not a penalizing body and will only recommend the actions of the PNP chief or the Ombudsman on those found to have illegally enriched themselves, he said.

Eye of storm

Canonizado refused to say if certain police officials were being investigated even before the scandal about Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's unexplained wealth erupted. *See stories on Page A1.*

Among the senior officials, only Matillano is in the eye of the storm—for allegedly using the Jaguar that his men had seized from suspected drug trafficker Jackson Dy. He has since surrendered the Jaguar.

Canonizado said Matillano had also submitted a formal statement denying that he had been driving the luxury vehicle.

But the planned hunt for millionaires in the PNP involves stuff much more serious than the alleged use of seized evidence, Canonizado said.

Much more serious

He said it would focus on police officials who had amassed wealth disproportionate to their legitimate income, and would include those keeping mistresses.

Earlier, a number of senior police officials detailed the ways through which the unscrupulous could make off with chunks of the PNP fund: the conversion of services into cash; "throwback," the curiously simple practice of slashing an amount from the budget, and cuts from service fees and trust receipts.

But with only 800 men—not all of whom are investigators—is the IAS up to the task?

"That's the problem," Canonizado said, adding that the 800 would have to cover all 17 regional and 87 provincial offices of the PNP.

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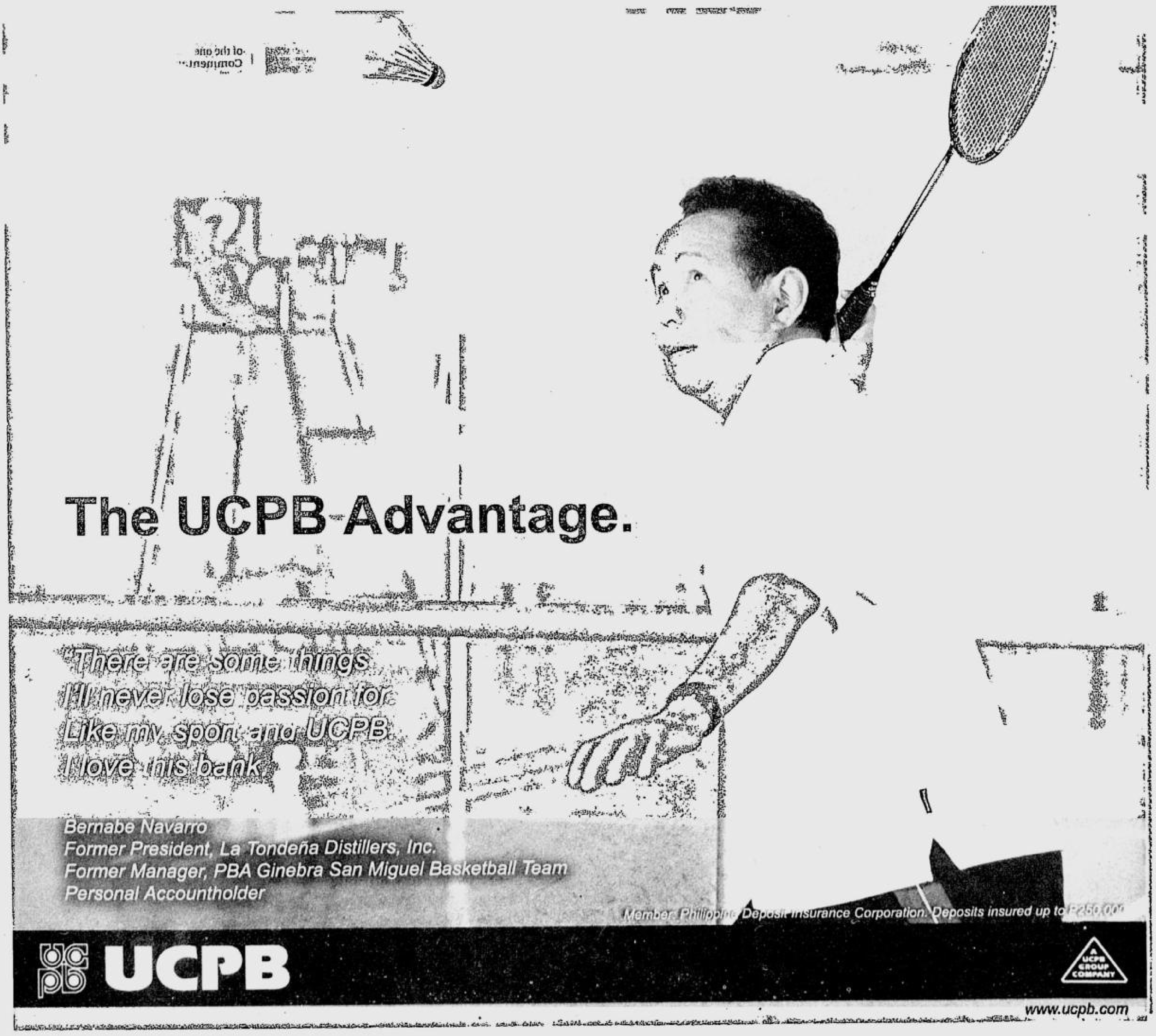
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Noose tightens on Garcia trapped by questions

From page A1

Police Savings and Loans Association Inc.

Marcos said this was a chance for them to refute any allegations that they had enriched themselves in office.

But Diomedio Villanueva, after conferring with Benjamin Defensor and Dionisio Santiago, said they had a right against self-incrimination.

"One thing might lead to another and we might incriminate ourselves unnecessarily," Villanueva said.

Earlier, Villanueva said his remaining balance with the AFPSLAI was P200,085, while Defensor said he had less than P5 million. Santiago said he had less than P3 million.

Villanueva said it was not he who appointed Garcia to the position of comptroller but his predecessor, former AFP chief of staff and currently Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"The decision was a collegial act by the board of generals which was then headed by my predecessor, General Reyes," Villanueva said.

Line of questioning

Golez opened his line of questioning by asking Garcia about the background of his family, including his wife, Clarita Depakakibo-Garcia.

"My wife is an American citizen," Garcia admitted.

Garcia also admitted that the $100,000 in cash that his sons, Ian Carlo and Juan Paolo, were carrying when they were stopped by US authorities in San Francisco, California, was meant for the school fees of his third son, Timothy Mark, who is studying at Parsons School in New York.

Asked if Timothy Mark was on a scholarship, Garcia said that his brother-in-law, Quillon Depakakibo, was financing his studies.

Told that his answer could be inconsistent with what he told the US Fines, Penalties and Forfeiture Office, Garcia said: "That is not the intent of the letter."

"The letter being mentioned is about additional support for my son," Garcia said.

Money was for schooling

"The support is not the total support but a contribution to the schooling," Garcia said, in effect admitting that the money seized by US customs officials belonged to his family.

Garcia also admitted that Timothy Mark was renting an apartment in New York, which was consistent with his Jan. 12, 2004 letter to US authorities.

Asked later to confirm that he had sent the letter, Garcia tried to wriggle out by saying: "Your honor, I could not testify against myself."

Golez shot back that he had already done so.

"I thank you for confirming the existence of this letter," the Parañaque congressman said.

In his Jan. 12, 2004 letter, Garcia asked the US Fines, Penalties and Forfeiture Office for "relief from the seizure of funds." He introduced himself as an AFP officer in active service for 37 years.

"I would like to inform you sir/madam that I have requested my sons to bring along the money in the amount of $100,000 to (the) US," Garcia said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Garcia said the amount was to be used for the down payment for Timothy Mark's apartment, tuition and registration fees, and "family expenses for the holiday season which we intend to spend in New York."

"However, I failed to advise my sons regarding the declaration of the money to US Customs," Garcia said in the letter.

Under 6 chiefs of staff

Prior to being yanked out of the comptrollership, Garcia served six AFP chiefs of staff, including present Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya.

Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano (NP, Pateros-Taguig) expressed dismay that "despite all the publicity generated by the Garcia controversy, the government has been treating him with kid gloves."

Cayetano said that upon his review of Ombudsman records, he found out that Garcia was only facing charges of perjury and dishonesty.

"These are light charges not commensurate to the discovery of his wealth," Cayetano said in an interview. "These are not enough to discourage corruption."

Cayetano also said that Garcia's estimated unexplained wealth had breached the P50-million mark which would make one liable for the capital offense of plunder.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. denied reports that funds allegedly amassed by Garcia had benefited a presidential candidate during the May election.

"Definitely not. It did not happen," Cruz said in a press conference. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac*

THE CHIEFS of staff of the Armed Forces, present and former, sit right next to the hot seat of Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia during the House hearing that's probing corruption allegations against him. From left, AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya, ex-AFP Chiefs of Staff Diomedio Villanueva, Benjamin Defensor and Dionisio Santiago. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Them were the days, old general sighs

By Carlito Pablo

THERE was a time when officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines didn't play around with military funds through "conversion," the practice of turning funds allocated for specific supplies or projects into cash.

A 78-year-old retired general recalled this period when he appeared yesterday as a resource person at the hearing of the House committees on national defense and on banks on corruption in the AFP.

"We did not practice conversion," said retired Brig. Gen. Guillermo Picache, who now walks with a cane.

Picache belongs to Class 1951 of the Philippine Military Academy, the first batch that graduated from the PMA after World War II.

Proudly looking on during Picache's testimony was his PMA classmate Ernesto Gidaya, also a retired general and now party-list representative of the Veterans Freedom Party.

"We belong to Class Banat (Strike)," Gidaya whispered to the INQUIRER with pride.

Picache is the founding chair and president of the Asian Institute of Strategic Studies, which is based in the University of the Philippines.

The institute, according to Picache, had published a book titled "Grappling with Graft and Corruption: The Philippine Experience."

Picache said that conversion was made possible with the collusion of suppliers and contractors. "The dealer is not stupid. He will retain a portion of the cash of 30-50 percent," he said.

Picache said that conversion often started with small funds, eventually graduating to bigger funds.

"*Pa-itlog itlog. Pa-manok manok. Pa-kalabaw kalabaw na*," was how Picache put it.

During the hearing, Maj. Gen. Antonio Anciano, AFP deputy chief of staff for logistics, claimed that he was not aware of any conversion in the military.

"I have no knowledge," Anciano said upon grilling by lawmakers.

Separate person from institution

PROFESSOR Carolina Hernandez, presidential adviser on the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission, yesterday said the investigation of military corruption showed that the AFP leadership was doing something about the problem.

"They (young officers) will be happy because the problem is being addressed. I see that there is no cover-up because there is information coming from the United States. These need to be answered and I hope the investigation (in the House) will bear fruit," Hernandez said.

She said she hoped that after the House hearings, congressmen would craft laws on "how to improve the systems inside the Armed Forces and the other parts of government so that it becomes difficult to steal."

"If the results bear fruit because there is no cover-up and the guilty parties are really punished, at the end of the day, it will be a good thing," Hernandez said.

She also said that there was a need "to separate the person from the institution" in the ongoing probe of Garcia as well as any future probe into corruption in the military.

She added that to strengthen the Armed Forces as an institution, there was need to weed out corrupt officers.

Hernandez was a member of the Feliciano Commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the root causes of last year's Oakwood mutiny.

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BURNING OF SHABU LABORATORY STOCKROOM

PDEA officer eyed in probe

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A JUNIOR police officer assigned with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and an unidentified male companion were the last persons to leave the suspected shabu laboratory in Parañaque City before a fire broke out last Saturday.

This was contained in the initial investigation report submitted to Senior Supt. Danilo Cabrera, director of the National Capital Region Bureau of Fire Protection.

The report, prepared by SFO1 Teodorico Gatchalian Jr., identified the PDEA officer as Chief Insp. Roselier Fabian, who turned out to be the commanding officer of Emilcon Amihan, the PDEA agent who witnessed the fire.

Amihan, a member of the Aviation Security Group detailed with PDEA, told investigators that Fabian, together with an unidentified male companion, left the place between 4 and 4:30 a.m. on board a silver Starex van.

Police investigators said Fabian should be made to explain his presence in the area before the fire erupted.

PDEA agents earlier raided the three-story house on Nazareth Street, Multinational Village, Parañaque, after receiving reports that it was being used as a shabu laboratory.

Amihan said he was on the second floor with a PDEA informant known as Tambi when he smelled something burning at about 5 a.m.

When Amihan went down to investigate, he saw smoke billowing from the stockroom at the right side of the compound, where pieces of evidence in the raid were supposedly stored.

Amihan said he heard a mild explosion when the fire was already evident.

Investigators placed the damages of the incident at P100,000.

Fire investigators revealed that the chemicals inside the stockroom included thionyl chloride and ethyl alcohol. Thionyl chloride is an essential chemical in converting ephedrine to shabu.

The Oct. 12 PDEA raid in Multinational Village has been hounded by controversies.

Until now, PDEA has not released the value of the discovered chemicals and materials used to manufacture shabu.

Meanwhile, a source from PDEA revealed that the shabu facility has been under surveillance since Oct. 7.

LTFRB opens more calibration centers

By Clarissa S. Batino

AGITATED taxi drivers and operators could take some comfort in the plan of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to open more meter calibration centers this weekend.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said that of the 42,000 registered taxis, only another 1,500 taxi operators paid their fees and applied for calibration as of Monday on top of the 4,300 last week.

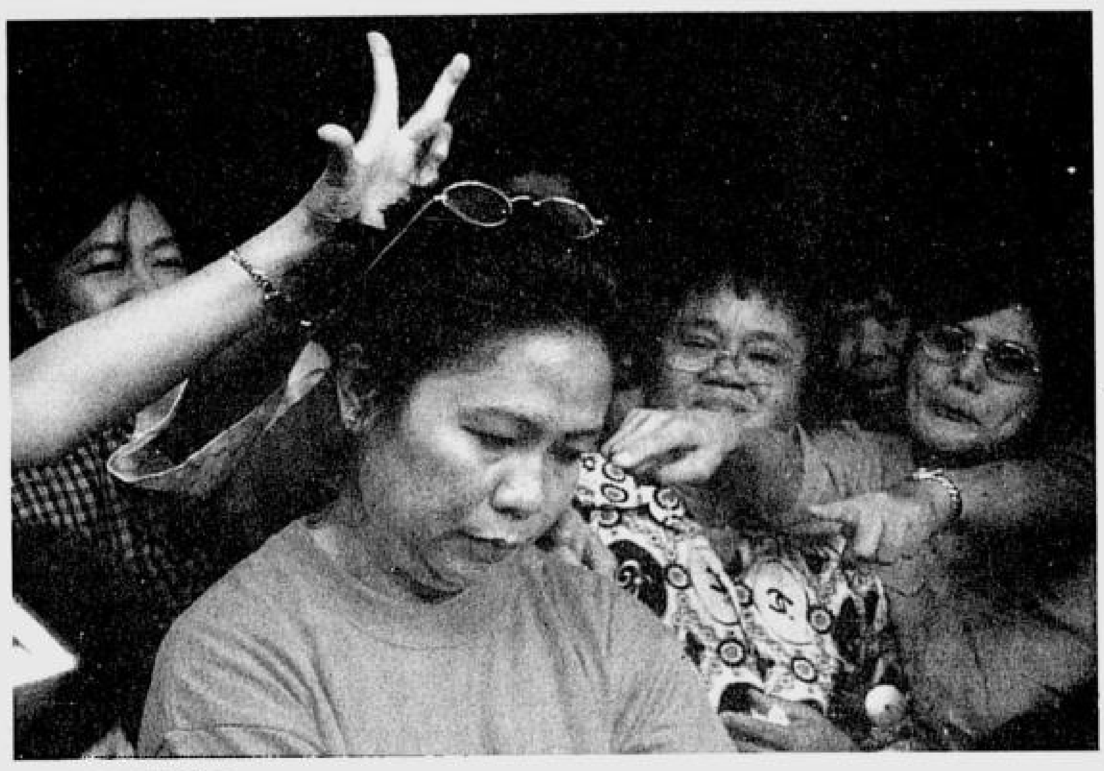
Even so, Bautista said the LTFRB would likely open calibration centers in Fort Bonifacio, at the CCP complex and at the Philippine Estates Authority.

The agency would continue to hold taxi meter-calibration within the SSS compound in Quezon City and in the Francisco Motors compound in Las Piñas City.

Bautista said of the 4,300 that paid last week, only about 100 units had not been calibrated.

Taxi drivers and operators said that the LTFRB was ill-equipped in handling the calibration as the agency opened only two centers.

"We had difficulty in handling the calibration because all taxis went to the SSS when there was another center at Francisco Motors," said Bautista.



JESS YUSON

UNFORGIVING
Complaining job seekers demonize alleged illegal recruiter Editha Baluran, who was arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation after reportedly spending the last three years in hiding.

Smokey residents hail transfer

RESIDENTS of the former Smokey Mountain of Tondo hailed as a "victory of the people" the transfer of more than 900 families from their temporary homes to permanent condo-type housing units.

The National Housing Authority recently announced the transfer of 960 families from the temporary housing facility in Barangay Aroma, Tondo, to the Vitas permanent facility, where new condominium-type units await them on Nov. 3 to 12, 2004.

"For the record, we owe this long overdue transfer of the remaining Smokey settlers, to the patience and vigilance of the people themselves," said Fr. Ben Beltran, parish priest of the Parish of the Risen Christ, to which the former dump community belongs.

The priest, who has led the former dump community for 26 years, said "Too much politics has become a stumbling block."

Beltran cited the recent Senate upheaval, led by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, as "another attempt to undermine the efforts of the people of the community" to chart their own course and lead decent lives.

3 students die after allegedly drunken jeep driver hits them

By Luige A. del Puerto

HOME is a place these students would now never come to.

A passenger jeep lost control and came crashing into seven schoolchildren at noon yesterday in Jala-Jala, Rizal, killing three of the pupils and seriously injuring four others, police said.

The schoolchildren had just emerged from the gate of the Jala-Jala Elementary School and were on their way home, according to Insp. Rhonnie Arreola, chief of the Jala-Jala Police.

The jeepney's driver, 23-year-old Alvin San Jose, was drunk, Arreola said.

"He was very drunk. He lost consciousness as he was traveling to the town proper," Arreola said over the phone. "The jeepney swerved to the left, and went straight into the school gate."

Barricade no match

The steel barricade of the school, placed in front of the gate, proved no match for the rushing vehicle. The jeepney plowed it as well.

The police said Joren de los Santos, 12, and Kim Anne Maridel Omega, 12, both grade six pupils, and Ma. Trina Magararo, 8, a grade two pupil, were declared dead on arrival at a Rizal hospital.

TV reports said two of the four injured students were in critical condition.

Now in public hospitals in Morong and Tanay, Rizal, are Renz Carlo Atanacio, Mayesa Menieve, Joanna Mae Villa and Jethro Aquino.

The police said they were also students of the school but their ages had not been determined as of presstime.

"This is a very sad incident," Arreola said. "We are all affected in town."

Arreola said San Jose is facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple serious physical injuries. The driver, who emerged from the accident unscathed, is now detained at the local jail.

Crusading princess seeks no red carpet

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NO RED carpets will be rolled out when royalty graces Manila next week.

Princess Caroline of Hanover will be stopping by at two city-run social welfare facilities in the capital when she comes to visit the country this month. The daughter of late Princess Grace of Monaco will be making rounds in charitable institutions aided by Amade Mondiale of Monaco, an institution founded by her mother.

But the coming of European royal blood would be modest, as the Princess would like to keep her arrival low-profile, said a city official.

Simple, no fanfare

"We were told that she wants to keep it simple, and she doesn't want so much fanfare," Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW) Jose Baranda told the INQUIRER.

On Oct. 27, the Princess would be visiting MDSW's Reception and Action Center (RAC), a shelter for homeless children from newborns to 17-year-olds, and the Manila Youth Rehabilitation Center (MYRC), a facility for minors who Baranda called "children in conflict with the law."

"It's not a state visit, not even an official visit. It's a personal visit that aims to raise funds for the institutions, and for her to see the children," said Baranda.

Both RAC and MYRC, operated and maintained by the city government, are beneficiaries of Virlanie Foundation Inc., a non-government organization that provides a home for street children, minors tagged in crime or victims of abuse, and single mothers.

Other facilities

The Princess is expected to visit other facilities supported by this foundation in other cities in Metro Manila.

Virlanie Foundation Inc. is aided by Amade Philippines, affiliated with Amade Mondiale of Monaco, an NGO that helps the underprivileged around the world. Princess Caroline is now president of the Monaco-based institution.

Baranda said that the Princess' advance party would visit the two Manila institutions tomorrow to brief local officials on the protocol for receiving Her Royal Highness.

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METROBRIEFS

Muntinlupa twits GMA program

THE CITY Council of Muntinlupa unanimously approved a resolution on Monday stating that "no project or program shall be implemented by government authorities unless there are consultations made with the city government." The resolution comes in the heels of Proclamation 667 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo which reserves 900,000 square meters of National Bilibid Prisons land for employees under the office of the President and the environment department. Muntinlupa said they were never consulted regarding the proclamation. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

28 mortar shells dug up in QC

A TOTAL of 28 81-mm mortar shells believed to be from World War II were dug up in a Quezon City street where excavation work was in progress. The Central Police District-Special Weapons and Tactics team said workers of the Manila Water Company laying pipes in Barangay Valencia discovered the rust-covered ordnance on Monday and yesterday. *Tina G. Santos*

Fiesta Pilar fest in Metro Manila

THE LA Hermandad Zamboangeña Foundation, Inc. in Metro Manila is inviting all Zamboangeños, Christians and Muslims, to a night of dance and fun on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City, beside Ultra Sports Complex. Tickets, available at P1,000, include dinner, door prices and the opportunity to support the 26 bright and needy Christian and Muslim scholars enrolled in various state colleges and universities in Zamboanga City. For details, call Nitz Uro Gonzales at 561-8581 or Dra. Nenie Uro Balcos at 714-6648.

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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PLANNING FOR NATIONWIDE STRIKE

Transport groups ready new ₱1.50 hike

By Clarissa S. Batino

ANY DAY now, transport groups said they would hold a strike to paralyze public transport nationwide in protest of what they see as faulty government policies, especially of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

At the same time, jeepney operators and drivers said they would seek a new P1.50 increase in the minimum fare once the price of diesel hits between P23 and P23.50 to a liter.

When the P1.50 fare hike took effect in mid-June, diesel was at P18 per liter. Diesel now costs between P21.75 and P22.95 a liter.

"We were supposed to file a fare hike petition when diesel went up to P21. But we deferred it after consulting with the government," said Zenaida Maranan, president of the Federation of Drivers and Jeepney Operators of the Philippines.

New petition for submission

"Now, we plan to submit our petition to the LTFRB as soon as we resolve some of our issues with the MMDA," she added.

Maranan said the jeeps, buses, taxis, shuttles, FXs and tricycles were just waiting for the final word on the schedule of the strike.

She said the public would be informed of the strike a day before.

"We would be coming out with leaflets to also explain why we are holding a transport holiday the day before," said the president of the biggest transport group in the country. The Fejodap has more than 250,000 members nationwide. More than 50,000 of these are in Metro Manila.

Among the concerns, Maranan said the biggest would be the new ticketing policies of the MMDA.

She said drivers and operators are being burdened with huge interests on the fine.

The MMDA slaps a 50 percent surcharge on drivers or operators who fail to pay a fine after three weeks.

Stiff penalty

Maranan added that the MMDA impounds vehicles whose drivers have not complied with the summons in relation to a violation. She said the MMDA also charges a stiff penalty of P6,000 on out-of-line violators.

"*Maraming kapalpakan ang* MMDA. *Papatayin nila ang hanay ng* public transport," according to Maranan.

Apart from Fejodap, major jeepney groups like the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide, the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transportation Operators (PCDO-Acto), the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association, and the Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines are ready to go on strike.

Members of the participating jeepney groups total more than 700,000 nationwide.

Maranan said most bus groups were also girding for the transport holiday.

Efren de Luna, president of PCDO-Acto, said the fare hike was insufficient in addressing the concerns of drivers and operators.

"We will definitely hold a nationwide transport strike within the month," said De Luna.

Tanong ng Bayan

INQ TV

ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 10:30pm

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text 2910

Garcia at ibang heneral:Court martial o civil trial?

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2nd Week Winners:

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Diosdado Paglalunan
Gapan City

October 1 Draw
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Valenzuela, Metro Manila

October 2 Draw
Gweneth Remigio
Novaliches, Q.C.

October 3 Draw
Ralff Joseph Miranda
Lucban, Quezon

October 4 Draw
Michell Dy
Cainta, Rizal

October 5 Draw
Jesus Jhenrey P. Reginales
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October 6 Draw
Mary Ann Antonio
Imus, Cavite'

3rd Week Winners:

October 7 Draw
Crispin D. Andaya
Tanauan City

October 8 Draw
Arcelie J. Serrano
Pampanga

October 9 Draw
Francia Arlen O. Delfino
Camarines Sur

October 10 Draw
Liezel Quirimit
Pangasinan

October 11 Draw
Daisy E. Maputol
Bukidnon

October 12 Draw
Valentin Ambeguia
La Union

October 13 Draw
Donesa I. Avenido
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October 14 Draw
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BASEBALL: MLB ALCS—Red Sox vs Yankees, Game 6; 8 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Boston remained alive, but the scene shifts back to the Bronx, where New York hopes to close out the series.
BASKETBALL: NBA Pre Season Games-Kings vs Lakers 10:30 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports—Sacramento and LA renew their rivalry in this tune-up match.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

BI files charges vs 5 'Fil-shams'

By Jerome Aning and Jasmine W. Payo

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday filed charges and began summary deportation proceedings against the five players of the Philippine Basketball Association who faked their citizenship papers.

The embattled players—as well as Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text—were also denied their last sanctuary after PBA commissioner Noli Eala indefinitely suspended them from playing.

The Department of Justice revoked on Monday the certificates of recognition issued to Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola, Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra and Jonathan Ordonio, Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull for submitting fraudulent documents.

Also yesterday, the PBA board moved to identify more foreign-born players who might have doctored their papers to gain eligibility to play in the country's top professional league.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. ordered the filing of the charges after the DOJ directed the bureau to "undertake with hasty dispatch" the summary deportation of proceedings against Hatfield and company.

Special prosecutor Arvin Santos filed separate charges against the players for submitting fictitious and spurious documents when they applied for recognition as Filipino citizens.

Santos said that being foreign nationals, the cagers "knowingly, willfully and unlawfully misrepresented" themselves as Filipinos so that they could play in the PBA.

Taulava was also found to have faked his papers, but deportation proceedings against him were stalled because of a temporary restraining order issued by a Manila regional trial court.

The PBA has already received the official communication regarding the revocation of the certificates, allowing the league to impose a board-mandated suspension on the players.

"The DOJ resolution ordered the revocation of the certificates of recognition of Messrs. Ordonio, Harp, Hatfield, Pennisi and Crisano. Without that certificate, a [foreign-born] player cannot see action in the PBA because the certificate is an essential requirement for eligibility," said Eala.

The decision came hours before Taulava was to suit up in the Phone Pals' game against Purefoods in Dumaguete City.

"We are also suspending Mr. Taulava for the greater interest of the league," said Eala. "The DOJ found Asi to be in the same boat as the five others. The only difference is the injunction."

The PBA board said the DOJ ruling would allow the league to cleanse itself of fraudulent players.

"It's good that the DOJ finally ordered the six players to be deported, but we should continue this crusade," said PBA board member Lito Alvarez of FedEx. "We just can't stop here. The PBA should appeal to the other suspected players to come out in the open.

"There are other players in the league suspected of falsifying their documents. They should come out in the open and make a graceful exit."

Two of the eight players whose deportations were sought by a Senate committee last year passed DOJ scrutiny: San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña and Barangay Ginebra's Andy Seigle.

Other foreign-born players who have been questioned in the past include Ginebra's Eric Menk and Coca-Cola's Raffy Reavis and Rob Wainwright.

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	4	0
Coca-Cola	3	1
Shell	2	1
FedEx	2	1
Purefoods	2	2
San Miguel	2	2
Ginebra	1	2
Red Bull	1	2
Sta. Lucia	0	3
Alaska	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Shell vs SMB

Phone Pals clobber Purefoods sans Asi

DUMAGUETE CITY—Willie Miller and Jimmy Alapag went to work and kept Talk 'N Text's unbeaten slate with a 101-87 victory over Purefoods last night in the Gran Matador PBA One Philippine Cup at the Lamberto Macias Gym.

The Phone Pals won their fourth straight even without Asi Taulava, who was suspended by the league over his citizenship.

Miller finished with 26 points while Alapag added 22 in the match presented by Lactovitale, the official food supplement of the PBA road show.

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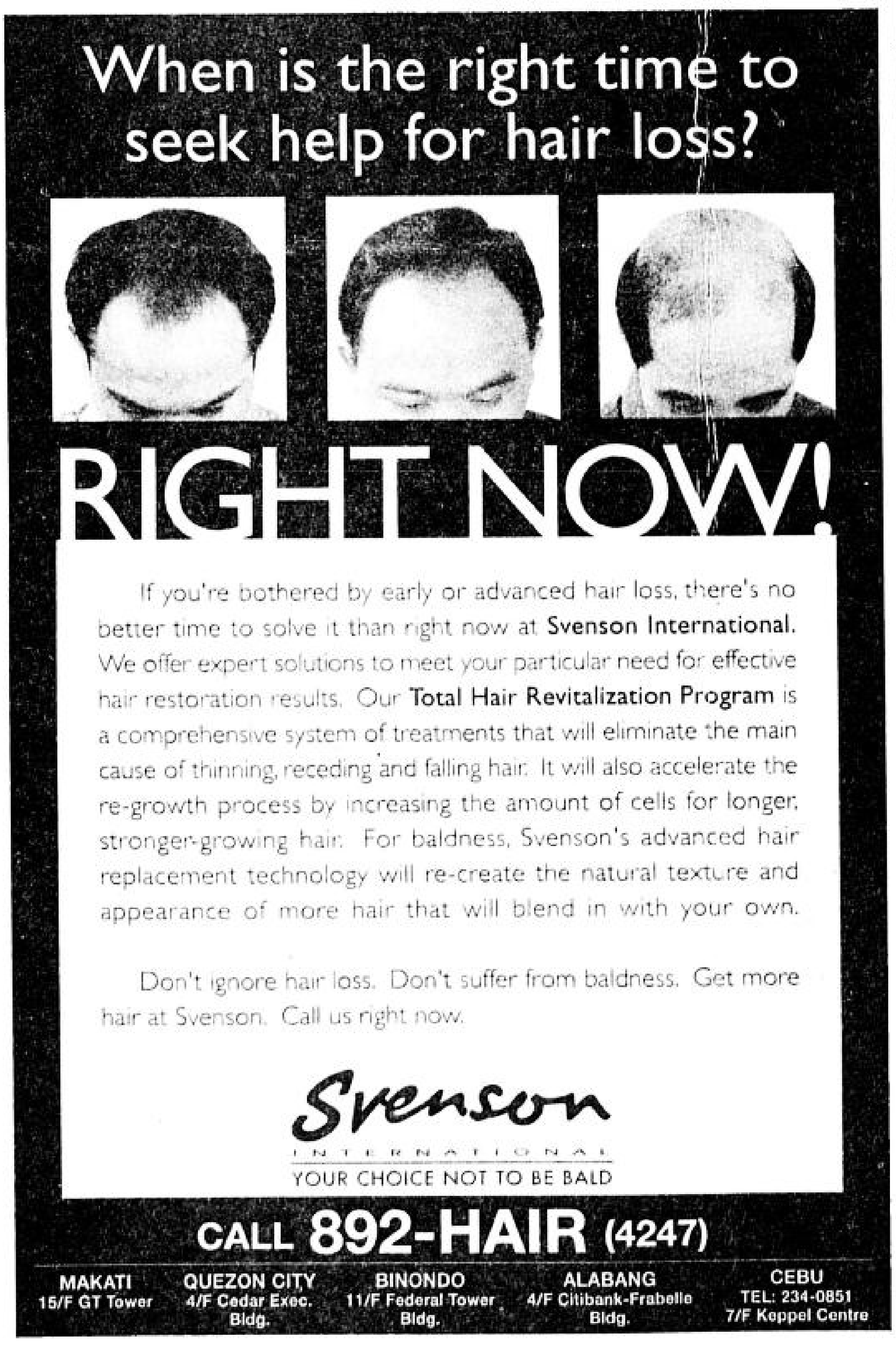
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RP chessers toil to beat Ireland

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WOMEN: 11.0—China; 9.5—England, Ukraine, Russia; 9.0—Germany, France, India; 8.5—Poland, Sweden, United States, Vietnam; 8.0—Hungary, Argentina, Netherlands, Latvia, Georgia; 7.5—Uzbekistan, Slovakia, Cuba, Slovenia, Serbia Montenegro, Belarus, Romania, Israel, Greece, Armenia; ... 6.0—Philippines

MALLORCA, Spain—It's not going to be easy.

This the Philippines found out after pounding Ireland, 3-1, Monday to surge into a tie for 16th place in the World Chess Olympiad.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre and International Master Jayson Gonzales secured victories with the white pieces while IM Mark Paragua and national champion Darwin Laylo salvaged draws from losing positions.

After four rounds, the Filipinos have so far collected 10.5 points in the company of Vietnam, United States, the Netherlands, Canada, Argentina and Denmark.

Ukraine dealt defending champion Russia a rare 2.5-1.5 loss with GM Vassily Ivanchuk (2705) pulling off a breathtaking victory over GM Alexander Morozevich (2758) with black at Board 1.

Ukraine shows way

As a result, Ukraine kept the solo lead with 14.5 points, half-a-point ahead of third-ranked Israel.

Israel crushed Bulgaria, 3.5-0.5, to open a two-point cushion over Russia, Slovakia and Azerbaijan.

India, which routed the Philippines, 3-1, in the third round, won its fourth straight match at the expense of the United States, 2.5-1-5, to be in sixth place with 11.5 points.

China stayed half a point behind the Philippines after holding off Australia, 2.5-1.5.

The final score hardly reflected the pitched battles that marked the RP-Ireland match.

Torre and Gonzales, who share the same room, provided the much-needed points after turning down draw overtures midway through their matches.

The 52-year-old Torre used a rare line in the Alekhine defense to thwart GM Alexander Baburin after 52 moves.

EUGENE Torre declines draw offer to win.

Baburin actually offered a draw after the 23rd move, but Torre, sensing the team needed a win, declined.

The break came after 36 moves which allowed Torre to take control of the seventh rank and weave a mating net which Baburin could not escape.

Gonzales, on the other hand, also turned down a draw offer from Mark Quinn before squeezing out a 47-move win.

"*Lamang ako ng* pawn *pero hindi sapat para manalo. Nagdasal ako ng taimtim para magkamali siya. Nagkamali nga* (I was a pawn up, but that wasn't enough to pull off a win. I prayed hard that he'd make a mistake. He did)," said Gonzales, who had to go through rigorous eliminations back home to make it here.

Gonzales opts to play on

Quinn made a peace overture on the 17th, but Gonzales, aware of the team's difficulties at Board 2 and 3, decided to take his chances.

For a while, the Filipinos appeared headed for a shock defeat after Paragua and Laylo, both playing black, stumbled early on against determined opponents.

Playing black for the third straight day, Paragua lost a pawn against Brian Kelly, but resorted to tactics to win the exchange. Despite two connected center pawns, Kelly was unable to press home the win and agreed to a draw in 57 moves.

Laylo, a former Asian Juniors runner-up, halved the point with Joseph Ryan in 41 moves despite double quality down. He used his powerful bishop and an active knight to neutralize Ryan's pair of rooks.

The hard-earned win was half-expected.

Team captain Sammy Estimo had warned his players not to take Ireland lightly.

"You can never be sure here. One player from Botswana beat a Vietnamese. So I told the boys to be very careful," said Estimo.

Next on the Filipinos' itinerary is Canada which dropped a close 2.5-1.5 decision to powerhouse England Sunday.

GM Joey Antonio swings back into action after a rest day to relieve Paragua at Board 2. Emmanuel Senador also returns to action at Board 4 in lieu of Laylo.

Torre and Gonzales play the first and third boards, respectively.

Filipinas draw Danes

In women's play, the Philippines drew all boards with Denmark to improve to 6 points, good for a share of 43rd place.

Women Fide Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao, still undefeated after four matches, picked up her third draw, this time with WIM Evgenia Hansen.

WIM Beverly Mendoza split the point with Oksana Vovk while rookie Loreshyl Cuizon agreed to a draw with Miriam Olsen.

China led the field with 11 points following its 2.5-0.5 win over Germany.

Ortiz fires up Red Sox hopes

BOSTON—David Ortiz drove in three runs, including the game winner in the bottom of the 14th inning, to lead Boston to a rallying 5-4 victory over the New York Yankees which kept the Red Sox's postseason hopes alive Monday.

Ortiz's shot to center field off Esteban Loaiza in the 14th scored Johnny Damon and sent the best-of-seven American League Championship Series back to New York for Game Six Tuesday with the Yankees up, 3-2.

At nearly six hours, Game Five was the longest encounter in postseason history.

The Red Sox have now seized two straight come-from-behind victories in extra innings after dropping the first three games of the series.

It was the second night in a row that Ortiz delivered the game-winning hit, following his 12th-inning homer in Game Four which helped the Red Sox avert a Yankees sweep.

"All I do is hit ... so when I get the chance, I have to get it done," Ortiz told reporters.

Boston, however, faces a tough task to advance to the World Series as no team has ever rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a championship series.

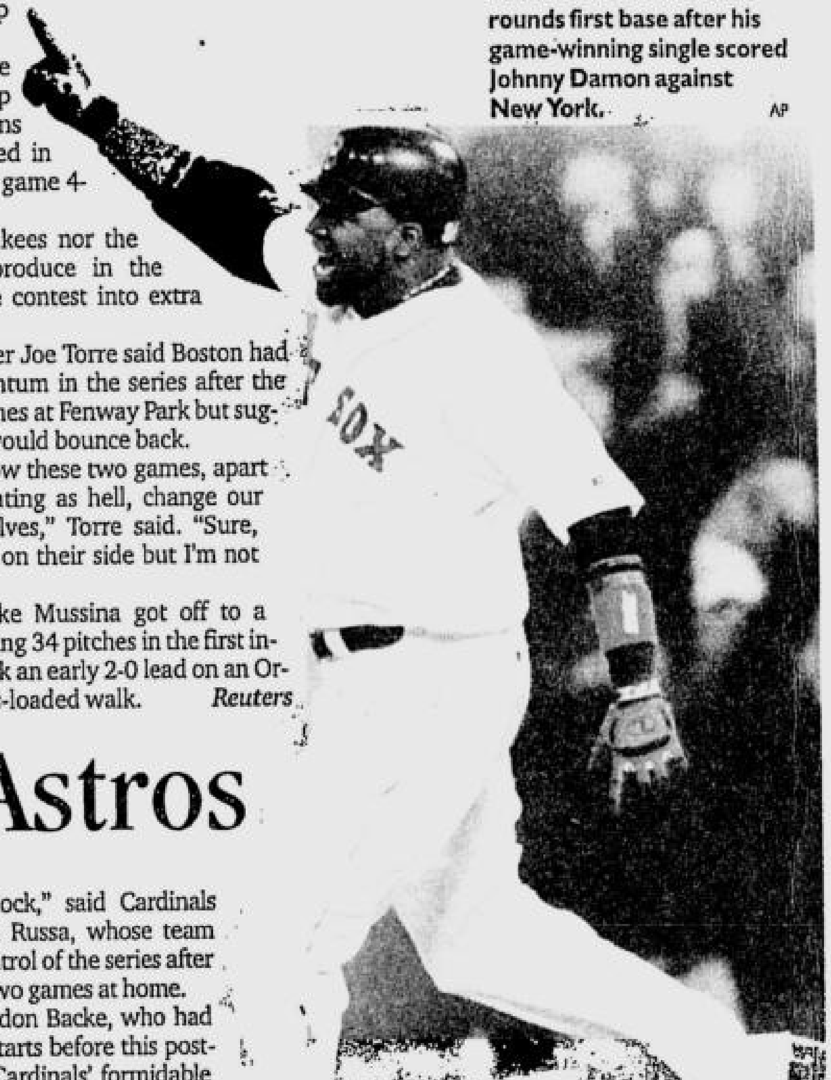
Both teams were forced to go deep into their bullpens after Boston banged in two runs to tie the game 4-4 in the eighth.

Neither the Yankees nor the Red Sox could produce in the ninth, sending the contest into extra innings.

Yankees manager Joe Torre said Boston had gained the momentum in the series after the two dramatic finishes at Fenway Park but suggested New York would bounce back.

"I'm not sure how these two games, apart from being frustrating as hell, change our opinions of ourselves," Torre said. "Sure, the momentum is on their side but I'm not sure it affects us."

New York's Mike Mussina got off to a shaky start, throwing 34 pitches in the first inning as Boston took an early 2-0 lead on an Ortiz RBI and a bases-loaded walk. *Reuters*



BOSTON'S David Ortiz rounds first base after his game-winning single scored Johnny Damon against New York. AP

Kent super for Astros

HOUSTON, Texas—Jeff Kent smacked a game-winning three-run home run off closer Jason Isringhausen Monday to lift Houston to a 3-0 victory over St. Louis and a 3-2 lead in baseball's National League Championship Series.

With the best-of-seven series knotted at two games apiece and neither team able to generate any offense in a superbly pitched game, Carlos Beltran opened the ninth against Isringhausen with a base hit.

One out later he stole second, and St. Louis manager Tony La Russa opted to walk Lance Berkman on a 2-2 count.

But Kent crushed Isringhausen's next pitch to give Houston their third win in a row.

"About 95 percent of my at-bats I go up there with a first-pitch attitude—I'm swinging," Kent said.

"It's a little shock," said Cardinals manager Tony La Russa, whose team had seemed in control of the series after winning the first two games at home.

Houston's Brandon Backe, who had only nine career starts before this postseason, held the Cardinals' formidable offense hitless for five and two-thirds innings, while St. Louis starter Woody Williams allowed Houston just one first-inning single in seven strong innings.

Tony Womack singled in the sixth to break up Backe's no-hitter. But after Larry Walker walked, Backe retired Albert Pujols on a pop-up to second to end the threat. *AFP*

Taguig cagers barge into NBC nat'l finals

FORWARD Taguig overpowered Laguna Spring, 80-66, Monday night before a packed crowd at the C.P. Tinga Memorial Hall to bag the NBC (National Basketball Conference) North division title and book the first slot in the national finals

With the Laguna squad only a point away at 64-65 in the last 4:10, Jimboy Robillos, Ogie Gumatay and Elbert Alberto banged in 15 points to complete a two-game sweep for Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers.

Taguig also came from behind to nose out the top-rated Laguna squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro in Game 1 played at the RECS Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

"We didn't want the series to extend to Game 3," said Taguig coach Danny Gavieres. "Whoever wins in the South, we'll be ready for them."

Tribu Sugbu and Ozamiz are locked in a 1-1 tie in the South division finals.

Down 33-41 at the turn, Taguig buckled down to work to tie the score at 53 at the 1:11 mark, before inching ahead, 55-53, going into the payoff period.

The scores:

TAGUIG 80—Gumatay 21, De Guia 18, Robillos 14, Alberto 10, Vilar 6, Roldan 5, Ricafuente 3, Quimpo 2, Nuqui 1, Magsalin 0.

LAGUNA 66—Epondulan 20, Mendoza 11, Nicdao 7, Serrano 6, Capobres 6, Caceres 5, Reyes 4, Manuel 4, Garcia 3, Corbin 0, Buendia 0.

Quarters: 17-21, 33-41, 55-53, 80-66

RP-Cebuana five shades Malaysia

THE PHILIPPINES-Cebuana Lhuillier team nipped host Malaysia, 83-80, Monday night at the start of the Negeri Sembilabn Menteri Besar Basketball Championship in Kuala Lumpur. The Filipinos, being mentored by Dong Vergeire, are fighting the Thais at presstime last night.

Torrecampo, Bayron set early pace at John Hay

BAGUIO—Ronnie Torrecampo and Rufino Bayron carded contrasting two-over 71s yesterday to share a one-stroke lead at the start of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Torrecampo recovered from a sluggish start with a 34 spiked by an eagle on the 12th coming home while Bayron, seeking to join elder brother Jay in the finals, turned in steady nines of 35-36 to set the pace in this tourney serving as the sixth leg of a nationwide eliminations.

Dave Hernandez, finding stiff competition in Torrecampo and national player Jun Bernis, was just a stroke behind after a 73.

Bernis, whose failure to secure a US visa prevented him from joining the Puerto Rico-bound World Amateurs team, found himself vying for another title. He birdied the first two holes but could only score a 73.

Local bet Chester Calpotura was another stroke back at 74.

SPORTSWATCH

Paeng, Jojo lead World Cup qualifier

FOUR-TIME World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and reigning ladies' titlist Jojo Canare showed the way into the quarterfinals of the World Cup national finals Monday at the SM Megamall Center. The 47-year-old Nepomuceno, seeing action for the first time in two years due to a left wrist injury, carded 5159 pins in 24 game to finish ahead of Benny Dytoc (5117), reigning World Cup kingpin CJ Suarez (5059) and five others in the men's division. Canare, bronze medalist in last year's international finals in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, tallied 3992 in 20 games to pace Ellen Ramos (3982), Asia's top female pintoppler Liza del Rosario (3950) and five others in the ladies' group.

Bibat joins RP team to World Amateurs

MICHAEL Bibat got to board a plane to Los Angeles together with the rest of the Philippine golf team last night after his application for an American visa was re-evaluated and reconsidered by the United States Embassy. The original team picked by the NGAP for the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico would have gone as scheduled, but Artemio Murakami, the erstwhile first alternate, kept his regular spot when Jun Bernis declined. Bibat got a call last Friday and was given a visa Monday afternoon, while Bernis got a call from the Embassy yesterday, moments after he had teed off in the Samsung Amateurs in Baguio. Even Roger Retuerto's case was given a second chance, but booking difficulties prompted Frankie Miñoza's personal swing coach not to go through the process again. Gene Bondoc also flew out with the team as first alternate. *Musong R. Castillo*

Huling Hirit features 120 fights

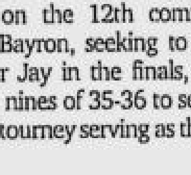
MORE than 120 non-stop fights featuring Metro Manila and provincial cockfighting champions are in store for aficionados in today's "Huling Hirit 4-Stag Derby" at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Hammer and Sagupaan Mite Free. The first fight starts at 3 p.m. Guaranteed prize is P300,000 or more, according to promoters Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who also staged the Super 2-Cock Ulutan (168 entries) recently. Entry fee is P7,700. Simultaneous screening, leg banding and weigh-in will be held today, from 6 a.m. to noon. For details, call 8166750, 8431890 and 8431746.

LGBA 7-Stag Derby yields 3 victors

THREE participants emerged as co-champions in the fiercely contested Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association Inc. 7-Stag Derby last week at the Araneta Coliseum. Romy Dalmacio of Pangasinan, Nancele Balbalos of Batangas and the team of Carlos Ledesma, Edward Marcos and PJ Tenorio of Batangas shared the championship after posting six points apiece. This year's LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year will be known on Oct. 25 and 27 in the 7-Stag Derby at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Submission of entries will be held on Sunday, Oct. 24, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 9267808, 9245072 and 9245051 (loc 128) or 9205851940.

There could be more 'Fil-shams' hiding here

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

RENE Saguisag was wondering if the titles won in the PBA with the help of players found to be bogus Fil-Ams would be nullified or not.

The legal luminary, a tireless freedom fighter, also asked: What would've happened if the RP basketball team to the Busan Asian Games, beefed up by the likes of Asi Taulava and Mick Pennisi who are both on the DOJ deportation list, had landed a medal in the 2002 Asiad in Korea?

Those questions were obviously aimed at the PBA.

But himself speaking, PBA commissioner Noli Eala, a lawyer, said he has noted loopholes in reports on the DOJ ruling.

Of course, Eala, who said the case could be appealed with the courts but not with the PBA, was still waiting for the voluminous official resolution whose copy he said he had yet to receive.

All told, you can be sure the case is far from closed.

***

Take this one from cycling great Jesus Garcia Jr., himself a Fil-Am.

Cycling Jess said he found the reason behind the clearance of one suspect very flimsy, based on what he read in the papers.

Garcia singularly noted that, as reported, the colored cager was cleared because "there are many family names similar to the one he used in the place which he claimed was the roots of his parents."

Well, before Garcia raised that question, we received suggestions for authorities to dig deeper as the effort could yield a bigger can of worms.

Said one anonymous caller: "Don't be surprised if they find out that the name was nothing more than a neat contraction of two native fruits."

One amateur basketball official who went to the place in Negros Occidental where this cager had supposedly vowed to render community service to repay residents "for their silence," swore having smelled something very fishy.

***

Yes, it's far from over and the clamor is for a more thorough probe.

Somebody suggested zeroing in on another player who moved into the PBA straight from the defunct MBA where his citizenship had been the subject of suspicion.

There could indeed be more Fil-Shams around than those found by Justice department investigators, who were fortunately roused by a new Senate committee headed by Lito Lapid.

Anyway, what should be of greater interest is the promised investigation of people—agents, scouts, even team owners, managers, government functionaries, etc.—who could be behind the fiasco.

Was the PBA, pure and simple, a victim? Or are there people within the pro league involved in fooling the fans and the national government?

***

For the record, Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez said his office has been instituting proceedings in preparation for the deportation of these players.

Remember how the BI was criticized for not lifting a finger after the Senate committee headed by Robert Barbers had established the culpability of the so-called Fil-Shams?

Fernandez had explained that the procedure called for a final decision from the DOJ before he could act.

Now that the DOJ has made a ruling, Fernandez cannot be expected to blink.

"If they would like to appeal, they could have a last recourse by going to the President," Fernandez was quoted as saying.

But wasn't President Gloria Arroyo, an avid sports fan, also a victim of these citizenship cheats?

***

(**MOVING:** Things move fast for RP's Z Gorres who makes his American debut against a Mexican on Oct. 29. Gorres reportedly manhandled NABF flyweight champ Brian Viloria, a US Olympian also known as the Hawaiian Punch, during sparring at the Wild Card Gym in Calfornia last week. Yesterday, lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, Gorres' chief handler, said he got a call from a certain Michael Koncz who offered to promote Gorres in the US with a vow of giving the boxer a crack at a world title in five bouts. But when it was suggested Gorres should fight Viloria, who was born to Filipino parents, Salud readily turned it down. "I don't relish the sight of Filipino boxers fighting each other," Salud said. "The reason I'm into boxing again is to see more Filipinos make a name abroad." By the way, Salud said Murad Muhammad, who invited Gorres to train in California, gets the first crack at promoting the Cebuano ring talent in the US. Word of honor.)

Dayrit predicts SEAG victory for RP

DAYRIT: We can win.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES will win the overall championship in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit has predicted.

Dayrit yesterday presented a strategy, based on a study, to maximize the country's chances in the biennial meet.

The study details how the country stands to gain at least 42 gold medals, with top contenders Vietnam and Thailand losing 75 and 11 golds, respectively.

"It is very possible we can win the overall title," said Dayrit during an audio-visual presentation of the study.

POC chair Robert Aventajado accused Dayrit on Monday of being "too magnanimous" during the SEAG Federation meeting for allowing the number of events to rise and for depriving "the country of a chance to win as many gold medals as possible."

The study, however, shows that based on the 388 events from 41 sports disciplines in the 2005 program, the Philippines can realistically win 88 gold medals, with Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia garnering 85, 83 and 48 golds, respectively.

Dayrit attributed this to the exclusion of events in the 2003 Vietnam Games which the hosts dominated like fin swimming and hand ball, as well as in shooting, billiards and canoe/kayak.

But with the inclusion of some events in the 2005 agenda—including arnis, billiards, bowling and women's boxing—the country can rake in 42 gold medals. In the same token, Vietnam and Thailand stand to gain only six and two golds, respectively.

Briones fastest again in Castrol A'cross

MIKKO Briones turned in the fastest time to keep the crown in the Experienced category of the second Castrol Autocross Invitational at the SM City North Edsa Open Parking Lot D recently.

Briones raced trouble-free to share honors with Peewee Mendiola, Ulysses Maningding and Migui Briones who topped the Pro, Novice and Newbie classes, respectively.

Briones clocked 58 minutes and 13.10 seconds to beat Philiy Tray Molina (1:04:19.2) and RP Manhit (1:04:28.30) in the race sponsored by Castrol Phils., SM City North Edsa, SM Supermalls, The French Baker, A-toy Body Kits, Air Philippines, PLDT myDSL, Auto Extreme, Top 40 Shirts, Ford Quezon Avenue, Wheelers Club International, Crack File Solution, Net 25, Concept One, Xenon Bulbs, H & R, Big Shot Billiards, Aqua Cool, Dipic, Triplex, Flower Power, Good Team Printing Inc., Max Meyer Paints, C! Magazine, Tech & Tuner Magazine, GTS Car Care Center and KIX.

The event drew teams representing Big Chill, Explorer, Meycauayan Auto Club, Cabanatuan Auto Club, ST5 Cavite and MR Autolandia.

The other winners were Maningding in Novice Modified A and B, Jhack de Leon in the women's race, Dodie Villanueva in the Ford Sacre Bleu Club, Emerson Ocampo in the Experienced FWD Modified and Miguel Alberto in the Open Unlimited.

Noted Formula 3 driver Mark Goddard, Paul Salapantan of Castrol Phils. and organizer Willie Dandan of Team Nitro Motorsports awarded the unique limited-edition-only trophies to the podium winners.

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RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 7
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SM City Davao Cinema 5

THREE MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 8

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ABCProblema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Pro-Game Show	PBA	PBA (4:30PM)			Sentro	PBA		PBA (7:00PM)			Big News	Diretsahan	Greatest Fights Of The Century	Greatest Fights Of The Century	Dream Music Videos	Billboard On-Air		
GMA	Joyride (3:15PM)	Twin Sisters 100% Señorita		One Piece	Rune Soldier	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin (7:50PM)	Starstruck (8:50PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:20PM)		Nuts Entertainment		Nuts Entertainment	Saksi	Jessica Soho Reports
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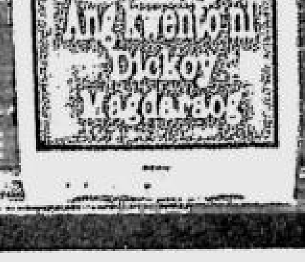
IBC	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Global Family Series	Retro TV	Global Family Series		Linawin Natin		BYK 101	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers		
Solar	Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Streetfighter	Skeleton Warriors	Samurai Jack	Heavy Gear	Invisible Man		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Experience Father Son & Mistress		
Nickelodeon	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents
ETC	Knock First	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Good Morning Miami	For Love Or Money		Meet My Folks		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Late Night With Conan O'Brien
Cinema One				Gumapang Ka Sa Lusak	Gumapang Ka Sa Lusak				Vital Parts		Vital Parts (7:00PM)	Persona	Red Diana				Story of Flor Contemplacion		
Studio 23					NCAA (2:00PM)		Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Mr. Bean	C.S.I.	Angel	Alias		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show	The Oprah Winfrey Show	Spin City	Cyber Pop
AXN	Fear Factor		Alias		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Samurai X	Samurai X	24		Maximum Exposure		CSI: Miami		Fear Factor		Alias		Maximum Exposure
Star World	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Baywatch		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	Ed		Hell Freezes Over				Just Shoot Me	Ed	
CNN	Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today		
National Geographic	Passport		Taboo		Rite Stuff	Young Global Hot Shots	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Passport		Taboo 2		Hidden Genders
Lifestyle Network	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special	E! Entertainment Special (7:30 PM)	E-News Weekend		Nigella Bites II Temple Food	Fine Living Special		Planet Parent	Good Eats	E! News Weekend
HBO			Our America		Our America (4:00 PM)	The Charlie's Angels Story			Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle		Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle		Excess Baggage			Mr Deeds (10:40PM)	Mr Deeds (10:40PM)		About Schmidt
Star Movies			Trapped (2001) (3:45PM)		Entrusted (5:15PM)				The Grid (7:25PM)		The Grid (7:25PM)		Reign Of Fire				Wall Street (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Swat Kats	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Digimon Frontiers	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Teen Titans
ESPN				Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	MLB Championship Series Game #6 (If Necessary)						Sportscenter Taiwan	X-games Best X Games Ever- Big Stars, Big Moments	Goals!	Sportscenter Taiwan update	MLB Championship Series Game #6 (If Necessary) (9:31 PM)		Super Basketball League Taipei, Taiwan All Star Game		
Disney Channel	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Lintalative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney	Wonderful World Of Disney		My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney		
Cinemax		Vertigo			Vertigo (3:30 PM)	Truth or Consequences				Till Proven Innocent	Till Proven Innocent		Along Came A Spider				Deadfall (10:45PM)		Shelter Island (12:25AM)
Hallmark Channel	Jasper, Texas				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Family Law		Mysterious Ways		Returning Lily			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)	Strong Medicine (10:35PM)	Family Law (11:25PM)	Returning Lily (12:15AM)
Discovery Channel	Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Building The Great Pyramid		Quest For The Lost Pharoah		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Hour Asia		
MTV Philippines	MTV Dyes		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	MTV Supahstar		MTV Rock'd	Non-Stop Hits	TRL		Room Raiders	One Bad Trip	VH1 Hits! Video Collection		Non-Stop Hits
EWTN	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Fr. Groeschel: Mountains And Valleys	Faith Factory	Children's Devotional Rotation	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Defending Life	Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Lamb's Supper	The Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan		EWTN Gallery

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

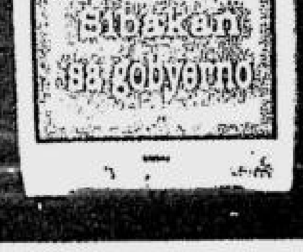
INQredible Pinoys!
Malong pasel, lisage posable


Ang kwento ni Dickoy Magdaraog

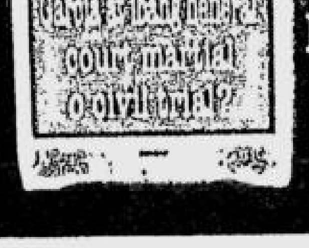
Byline Inquirer

Pinoy novelty songs Kwela pa rin!

Inquirer In-Depth



Tanong Ng Bayan


Garcia & ibang heneral court martial o civil trial?

Ngayong Huwebes,
10:30pm!
INQ TV
Dito lang sa ABC

Intoxicated drinks, under suspicious, reckless impudence and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: From your extensive experience as a singer, can you tell us if good singing talent is inborn, or learned?

Guest: Well, as what I think, *mahirap talaga kung hindi ka inborn maging singer.*

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: We have a complaint against a restaurant, coming from a barangay captain. We have the complainant with us, so let's ask him: Sir, what is your complaint against the restaurant in question?

Guest: Because it's selling intoxicated drinks!

(Hic! said the beer bottle, grinning sappily.)

* * *

Host: When you lost your TV show, were you sad?

Guest: Yes, I admit, sad—but not so sad in the sense of the word.

(Now, *that's* really sad!)

* * *

Host: What do you like to do most of all?

Guest: Scuba-diving!

Host: What's the special appeal of scuba-diving to you?

Guest: Oh, because underwater, it's so peace!

(So peace—with the fish? You wish!)

* * *

Host: If there is a terrorist attack reported in your building, what would you do?

Guest: First, we have to isolate. Nobody can come in or out, until after investigation.

Host: Nobody can leave?

Guest: No, all are under suspicious.

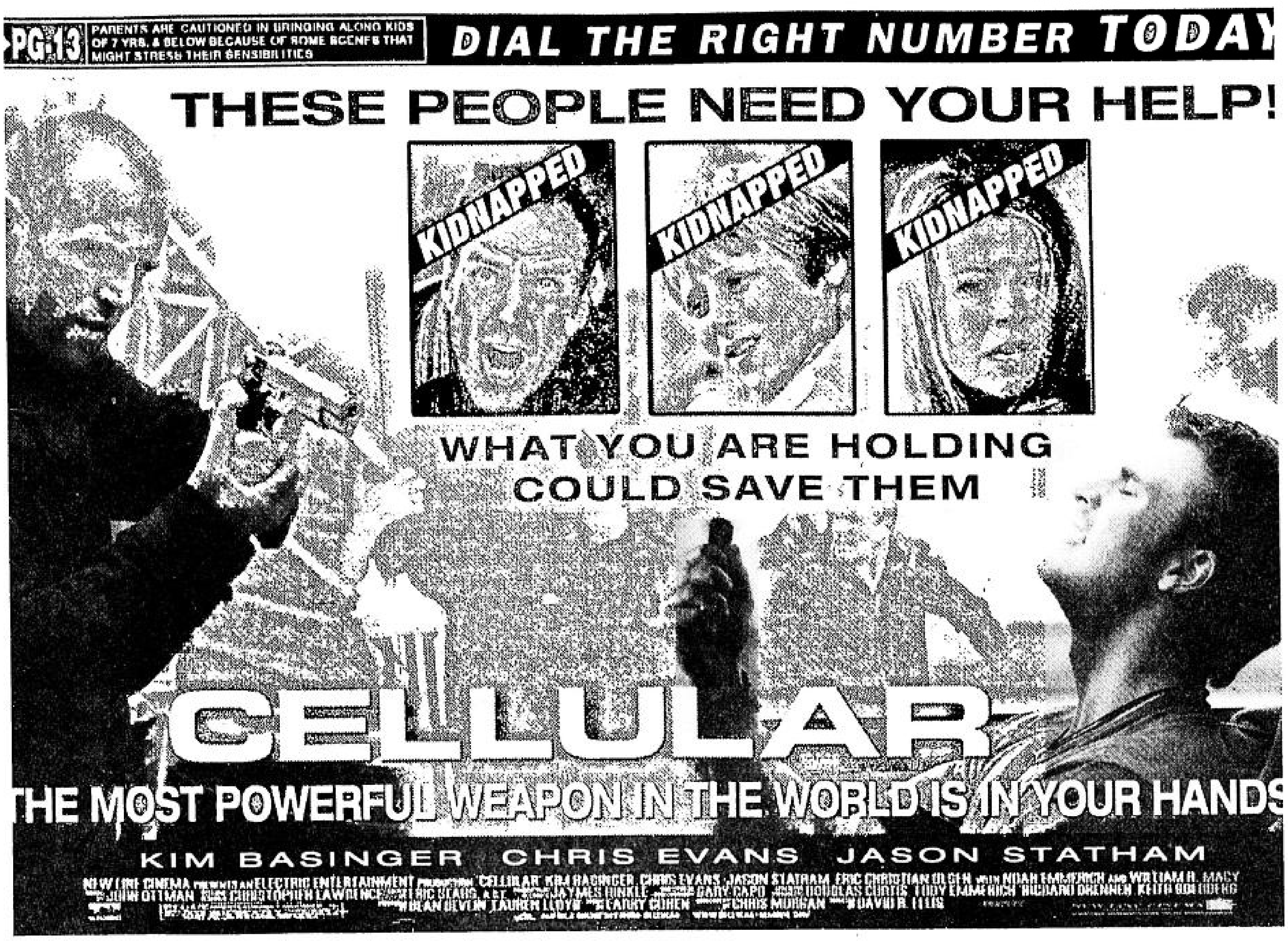
(*Ay*, under suspicious!)

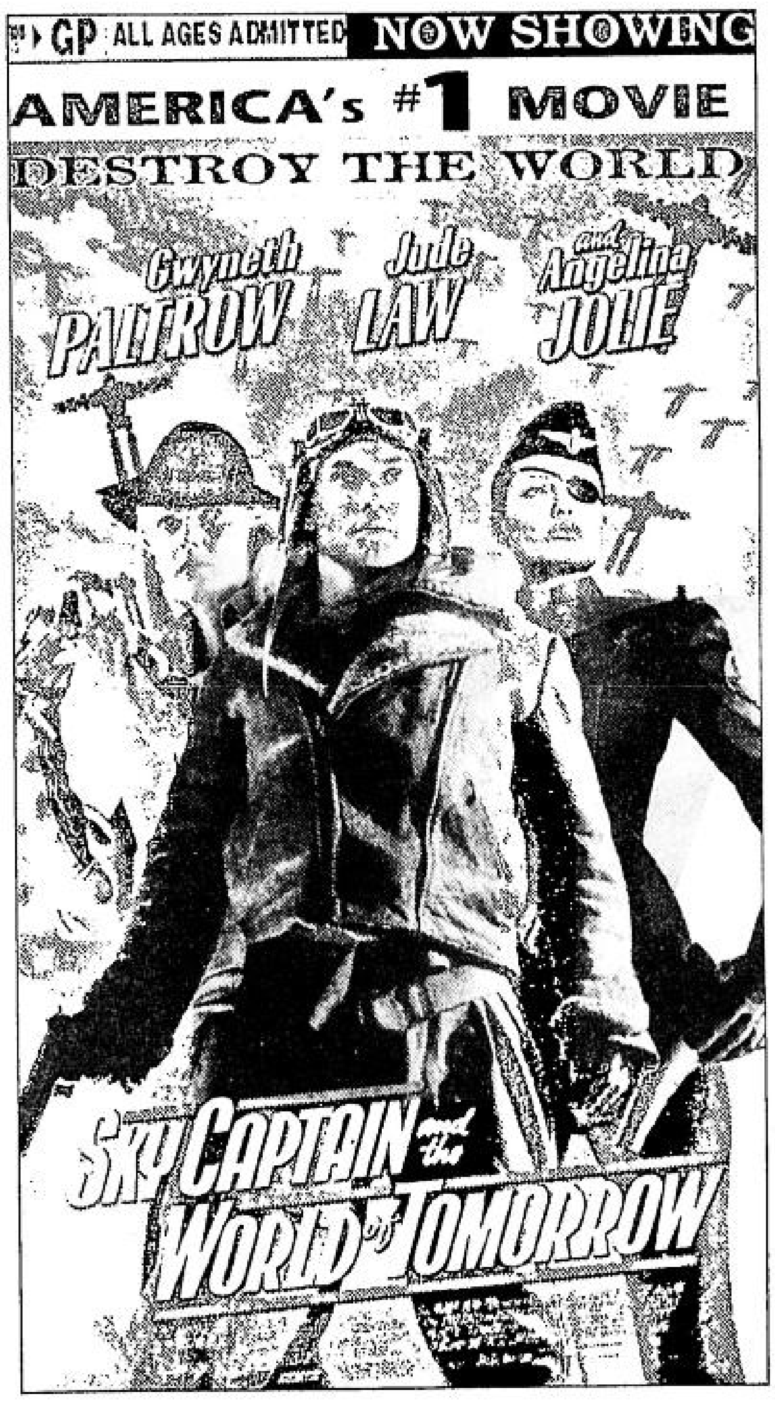
* * *

Quizmaster: Before it was torn down, what did the Berlin wall separate?

Contestant 1: England and Russia!

INTOXICATED/ A31

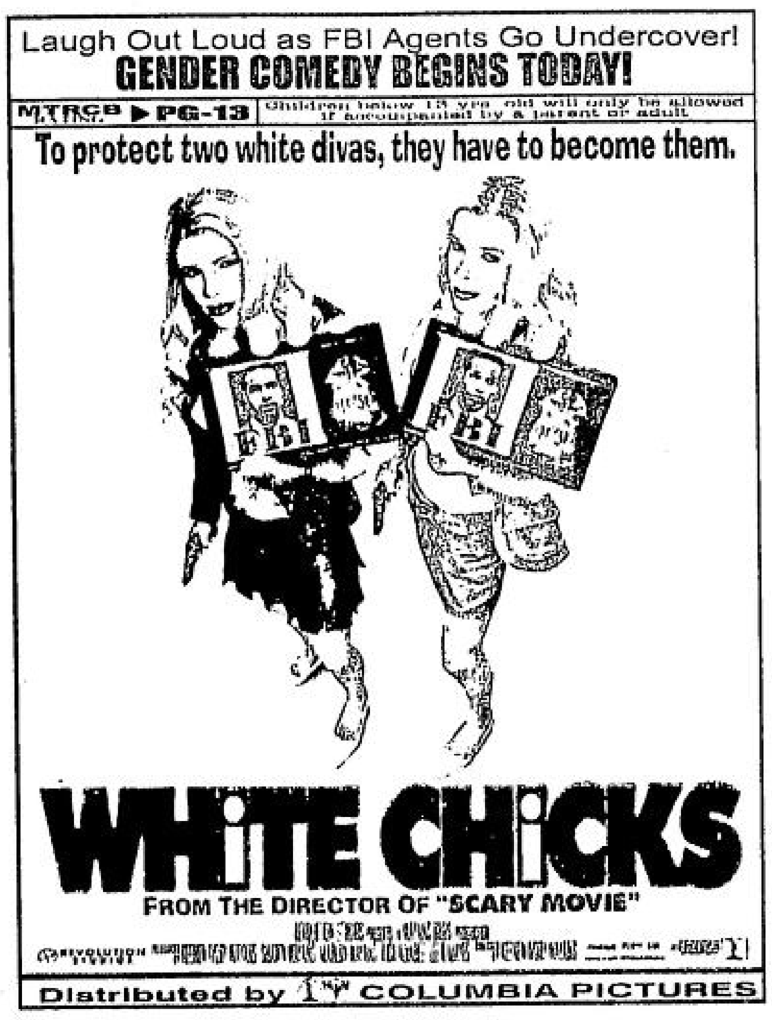

PG-13 PARENTS ARE CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG KIDS OF 7 YRS. & BELOW BECAUSE OF SOME SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS THEIR SENSIBILITIES
DIAL THE RIGHT NUMBER TODAY
THESE PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP!
KIDNAPPED
KIDNAPPED
KIDNAPPED
WHAT YOU ARE HOLDING COULD SAVE THEM
CELLULAR
THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE WORLD IS IN YOUR HANDS
KIM BASINGER CHRIS EVANS JASON STATHAM

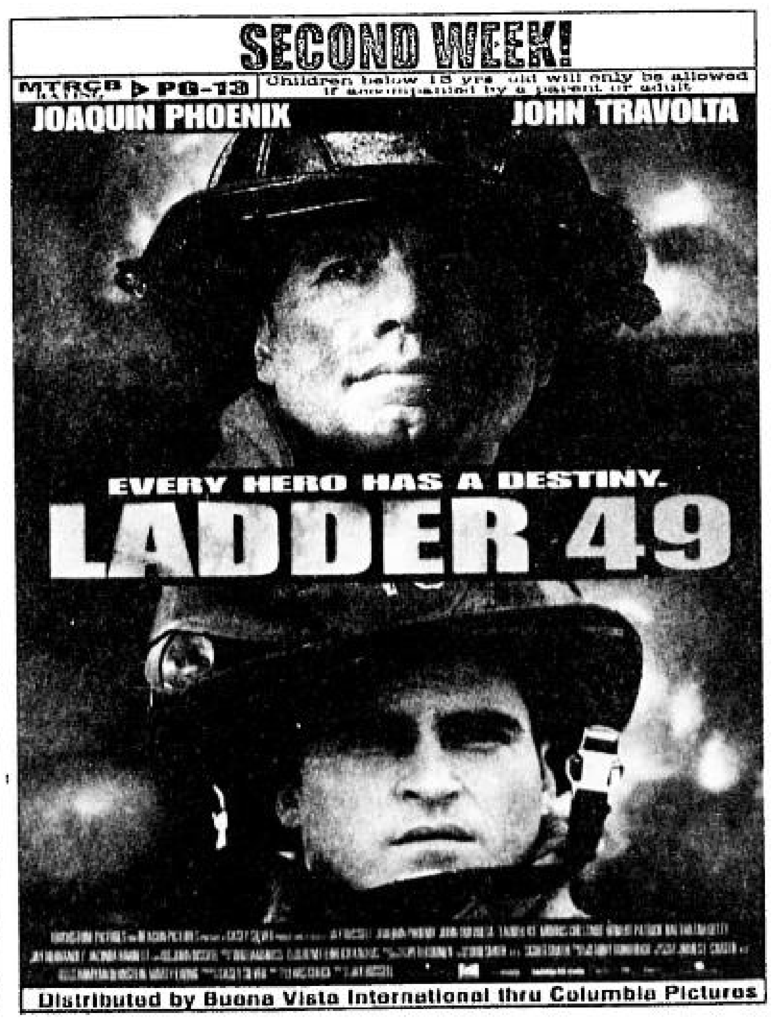

GP ALL AGES ADMITTED
NOW SHOWING
AMERICA's #1 MOVIE
DESTROY THE WORLD
Gwyneth PALTROW
Jude LAW
and Angelina JOLIE
SKY CAPTAIN and the WORLD of TOMORROW

OPENS TODAY
MTRCB RATING R-18
The Sin
R.S.PROMOTION PLC. PRESENTS AN ALADDIN HOUSE PRODUCTION

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS ARE ADVISED OF SOME BATTLE SCENES THAT MAYBE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN BELOW 8 YRS OLD.
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON" AND "HERO"
十面埋伏
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

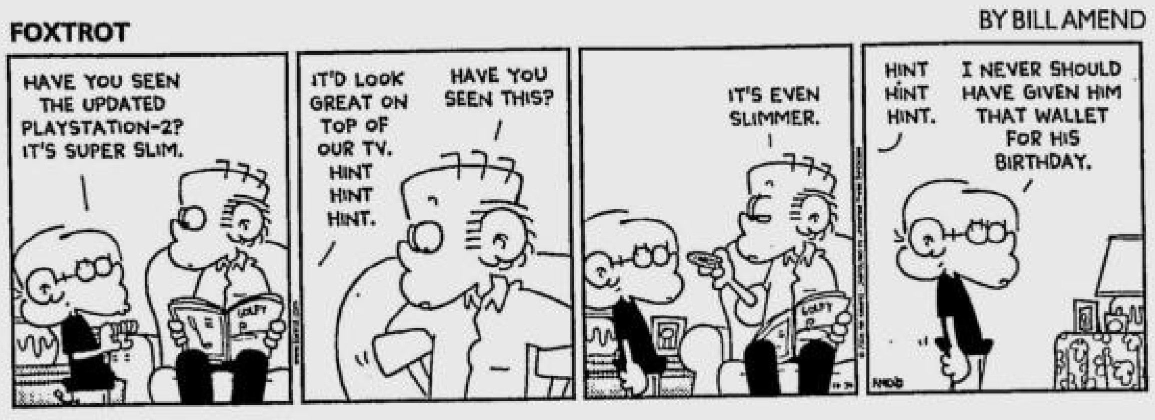
MTRCB RATING PG-13
2ND WEEK!
NOW SHOWING AT SM MEGAMALL SM MANILA SM FAIRVIEW
ASIA'S TOP DIRECTORS TERRIFY AUDIENCES IN THE MOST HORRIFYING GHOST STORIES EVER FILMED!
Tatlong beses kang mamamatay sa sindak!!!
THREE
WINNER
BEST PICTURE
BEST DIRECTOR
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY
BEST ACTOR
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation


Laugh Out Loud as FBI Agents Go Undercover!
GENDER COMEDY BEGINS TODAY!
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
To protect two white divas, they have to become them.
FBI
FBI
WHITE CHICKS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "SCARY MOVIE"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


SECOND WEEK!
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
JOAQUIN PHOENIX
JOHN TRAVOLTA
EVERY HERO HAS A DESTINY.
LADDER 49
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

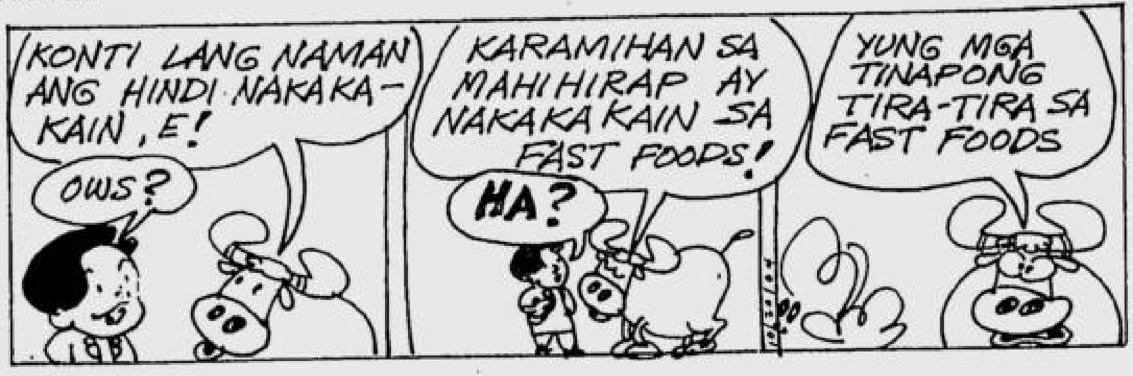
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HAVE YOU SEEN THE UPDATED PLAYSTATION-2? IT'S SUPER SLIM.
IT'D LOOK GREAT ON TOP OF OUR TV. HINT HINT HINT.
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?
IT'S EVEN SLIMMER.
HINT HINT HINT.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HIM THAT WALLET FOR HIS BIRTHDAY.

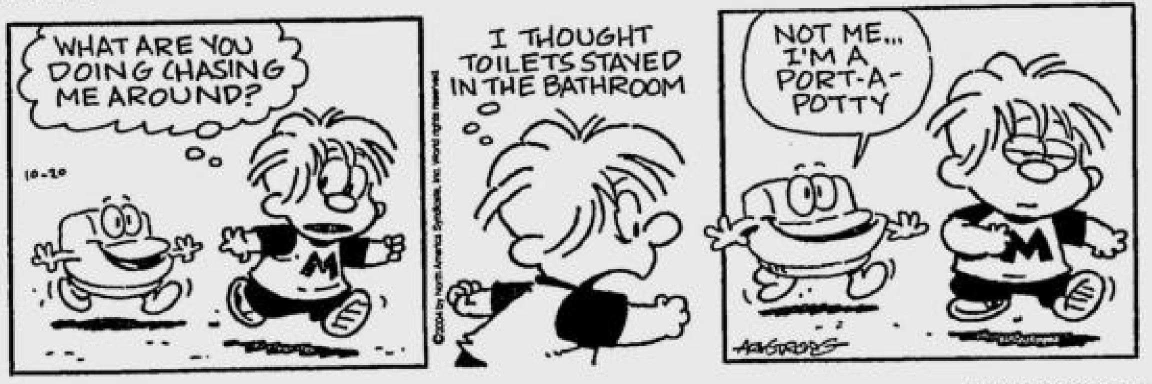
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KONTI LANG NAMAN ANG HINDI NAKAKA-KAIN, E!
OWS?
KARAMIHAN SA MAHIHIRAP AY NAKAKAKAIN SA FAST FOODS!
HA?
YUNG MGA TINAPONG TIRA-TIRA SA FAST FOODS

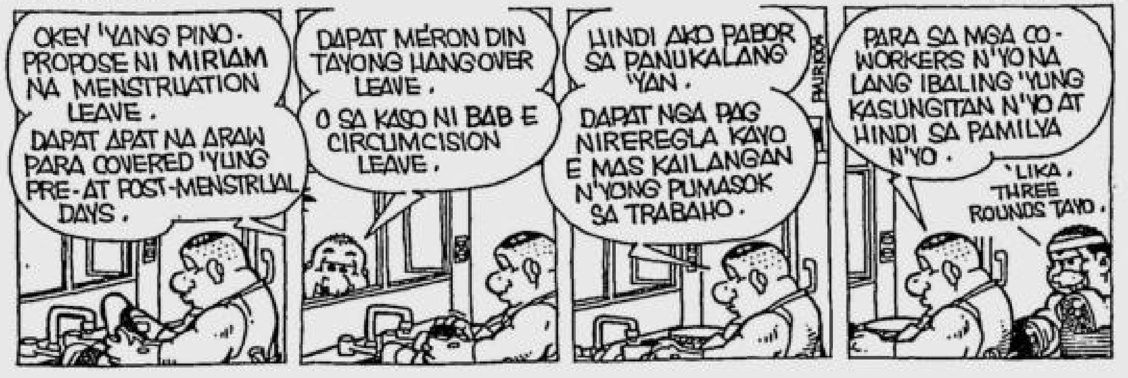
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT ARE YOU DOING CHASING ME AROUND?
10-20
I THOUGHT TOILETS STAYED IN THE BATHROOM
NOT ME... I'M A PORT-A-POTTY

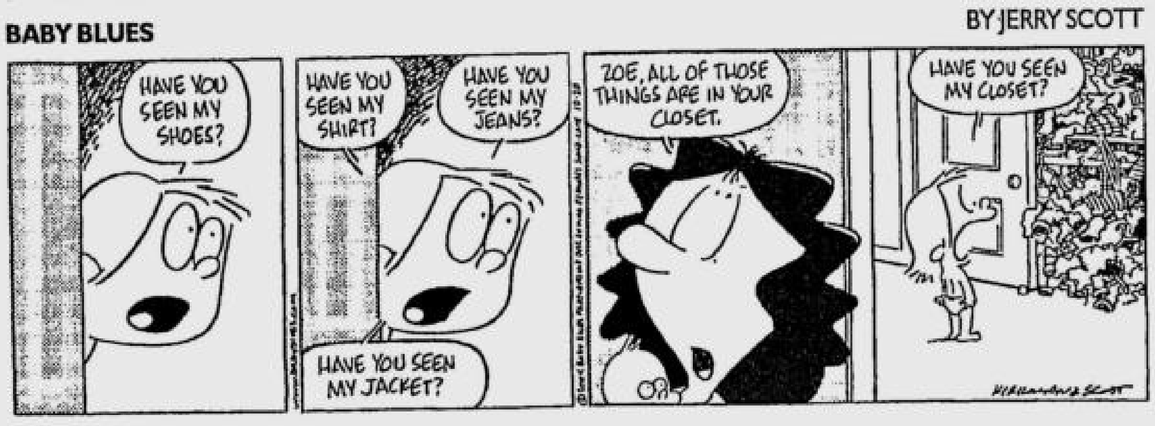
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


OKEY 'YANG PINO-PROPOSE NI MIRIAM NA MENSTRUATION LEAVE.
DAPAT APAT NA ARAW PARA COVERED 'YUNG PRE-AT POST-MENSTRUAL DAYS.
DAPAT MERON DIN TAYONG HANGOVER LEAVE.
O SA KASO NI BAB E CIRCUMCISION LEAVE.
HINDI AKO PABOR SA PANUKALANG 'YAN.
DAPAT NGA PAG NIREREGLA KAYO E MAS KAILANGAN N'YONG PUMASOK SA TRABAHO.
PARA SA MGA CO-WORKERS N'YO NA LANG IBALING 'YUNG KASUNGITAN N'YO AT HINDI SA PAMILYA N'YO.
'LIKA. THREE ROUNDS TAYO.

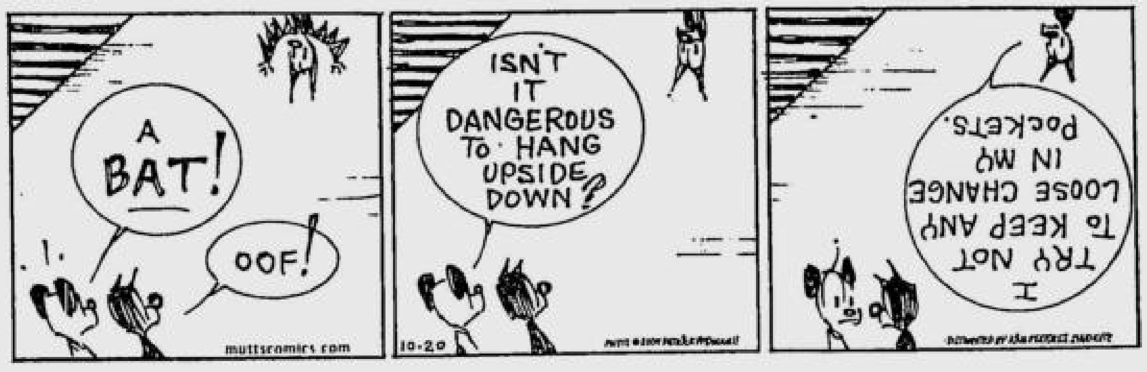
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAVE YOU SEEN MY SHOES?
HAVE YOU SEEN MY SHIRT?
HAVE YOU SEEN MY JEANS?
HAVE YOU SEEN MY JACKET?
ZOE, ALL OF THOSE THINGS ARE IN YOUR CLOSET.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY CLOSET?

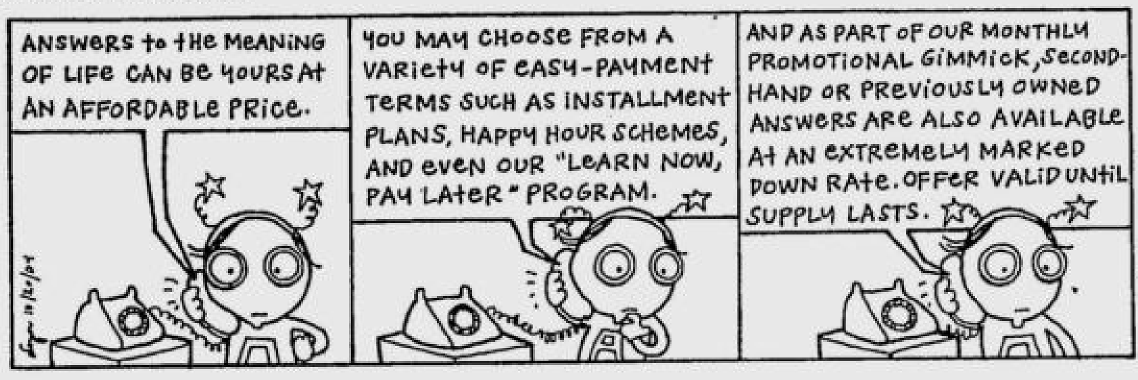
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A BAT!
OOF!
muttscomics.com
10-20
ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO HANG UPSIDE DOWN?
I TRY NOT TO KEEP ANY LOOSE CHANGE IN MY POCKETS.

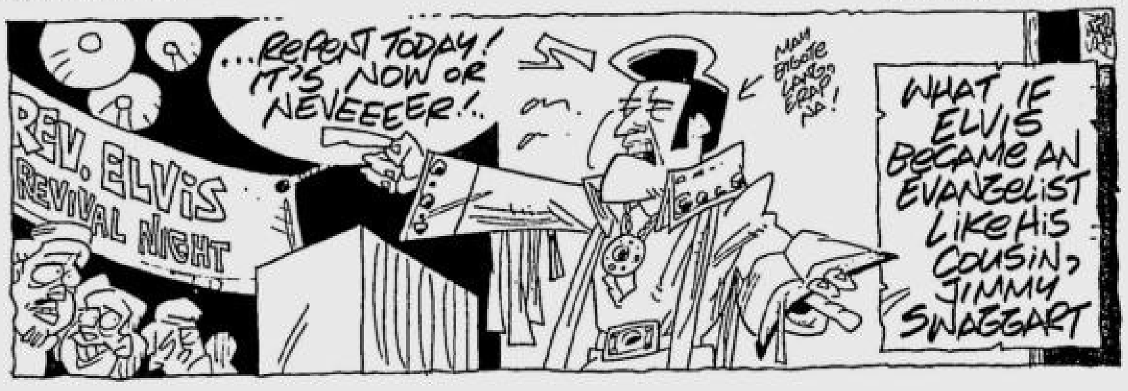
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ANSWERS TO THE MEANING OF LIFE CAN BE YOURS AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.
YOU MAY CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF EASY-PAYMENT TERMS SUCH AS INSTALLMENT PLANS, HAPPY HOUR SCHEMES, AND EVEN OUR "LEARN NOW, PAY LATER" PROGRAM.
AND AS PART OF OUR MONTHLY PROMOTIONAL GIMMICK, SECOND-HAND OR PREVIOUSLY OWNED ANSWERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT AN EXTREMELY MARKED DOWN RATE. OFFER VALID UNTIL SUPPLY LASTS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


...REPENT TODAY! IT'S NOW OR NEVEEEER!..
REV. ELVIS REVIVAL NIGHT
MAY BIGOTE LANG ERAP NA!
WHAT IF ELVIS BECAME AN EVANGELIST LIKE HIS COUSIN, JIMMY SWAGGART

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You have a good understanding of society and its trends. Because of this, others respect you and listen to you. You have good money sense. You're realistic and practical. You appreciate fashion and style. You always look good. In the year ahead, you'll let go of things to create room for new avenues.
Birthdate of: Viggo Mortensen, actor; Mickey Mantle, baseball player; Bela Lugosi, actor.

ARIES(March 21 to April 19) Because you feel uncertain about things with friends and partners now, you're obsessed about something at work. Relax. You're in control no matter what happens.

TAURUS(April 20 to May 20) Feelings of uncertainty make you compulsive about a romantic relationship. Ironically, you might try to smother somebody. Don't do this. Give everyone some breathing room

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't insist on getting your way at home today. Be more mellow with family members. Repair broken appliances or machinery where you live.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might not realize it, but you're probably coming on too strong with siblings, neighbors and relatives. You're holding on for dear life to something you think is important. Relax!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You feel obsessed about buying something. You want greater control over your life through your possessions and your money. That's OK, but is this the wisest way to do this? (Think about it.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Major changes are taking place in a relationship now. Things could be breaking down. If so, this could be for the best. Don't try to hold up something that wants to fall.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't hang on to somebody out of feelings of insecurity. Sometimes the best thing to do is let go. It's scary at first. (That's why people stay in miserable situations rather than risk change.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might feel powerfully drawn to someone today. This might be good; this might be bad. Try to be aware of what you're doing. Use your mind as well as your heart.

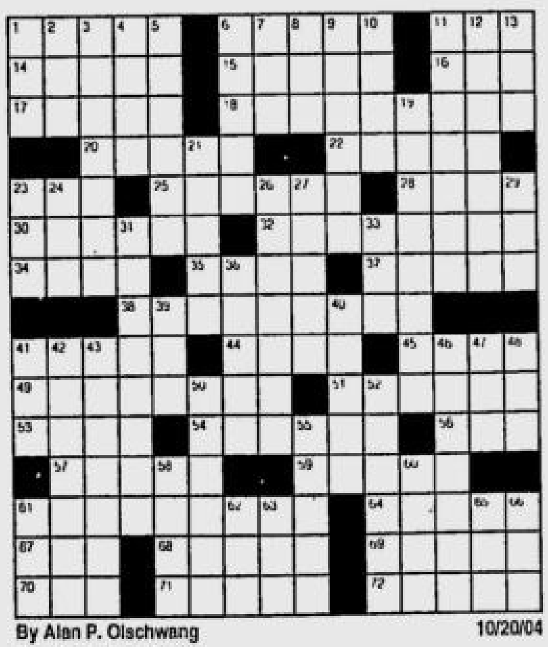
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't be demanding of bosses, parents and teachers. You're convinced you're right about something, but others think the same thing! Be cool.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You can't pretend that something isn't changing, because it is. Change is not necessarily bad; it's just new and different. (Sometimes, it's the best thing that ever happened!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You want your fair share of something. In fact, you intend to demand that you get what you want. You feel very passionate about everything now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Every partnership needs to grow and change in order to stay healthy. Don't try to control someone because you want things to be the way they were. Life isn't that simple.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/20/04

ACROSS
1 Start of Joe L. Griffith quote
6 Wrist bones
11 Media business grp.
14 Papa Doc's domain
15 Acquire knowledge
16 Major ISP
17 Divvy up
18 Part 2 of quote
20 Ice breaker
22 Racetrack tipsters
23 Imitate
25 "Gil Blas" writer
28 Cosmo or astro follower
30 Shopping lanes
32 Reporter's concern
34 Westernmost of the Aleutians
35 __ go bragh!
37 City on the Ruhr
38 Part 3 of quote
41 Desert spring
44 Ancient Chinese money
45 Lends a hand to
49 Decreed
51 Style
53 Love god
54 Sites for fights
56 Refrain syllable
57 Lomond and Ness
59 __ nous (just between us)
61 Part 4 of quote
64 Less common
67 Chemical suffix
68 Made over
69 Jungian soul
70 TV reporter Koppel
71 Absentee ballot
72 End of quote

DOWN
1 Exclamation of discovery
2 Sal, for one
3 Most unctuous
4 Egyptian god of the sun
5 Diminutive
6 Ad awards
7 Loser to DDE
8 Raced
9 South African shrub
10 Division word
11 Rum cocktails
12 Eat
13 Math branch
19 Master of foxhounds
21 Timer button
23 Motorists' org.
24 Abyss
26 Surveying instrument
27 Literary category
29 Downing Street address
31 "Ninotchka" director
33 Narcs' org.
36 Appraiser
39 Cold War letters
40 Violinist Mischa
41 Keats' work
42 Flying group
43 Skedaddled
46 Temporary
47 Word with Bingle or Alte
48 Mexicali Mrs.
50 Poison-detection job
52 Of the stars
55 Poor
58 Type of seal
60 Indian princess
61 Moisten
62 Words of commitment
63 Tom of oaters
65 Radio static letters
66 Backstabber

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	A	S	S		S	H	O	P		F	E	L	L
N	A	D	I	A		T	O	R	A		O	K	I	E
G	R	A	S	S	R	O	O	T	S		D	E	C	O
S	I	M		S	E	A	T		S	A	D	D	E	N
T	O	S	S	E	D		S	M	I	L	E			
			T	R	A	P		E	M	B	R	A	C	E
A	D	A	R		C	A	R	D		A	T	L	A	S
S	O	R	A		T	R	A	I	L		O	I	L	S
T	R	A	W	L		I	N	C	A		W	A	L	E
I	A	M	B	I	C	S		O	N	C	E			
			O	M	A	H	A		D	O	R	E	M	I
S	E	N	S	O	R		S	T	A	B		L	O	N
P	R	O	S		H	A	Y	B	U	R	N	E	R	S
A	N	T	E		O	L	L	A		A	I	M	E	E
T	E	E	S		P	E	A	R		S	T	I	L	T

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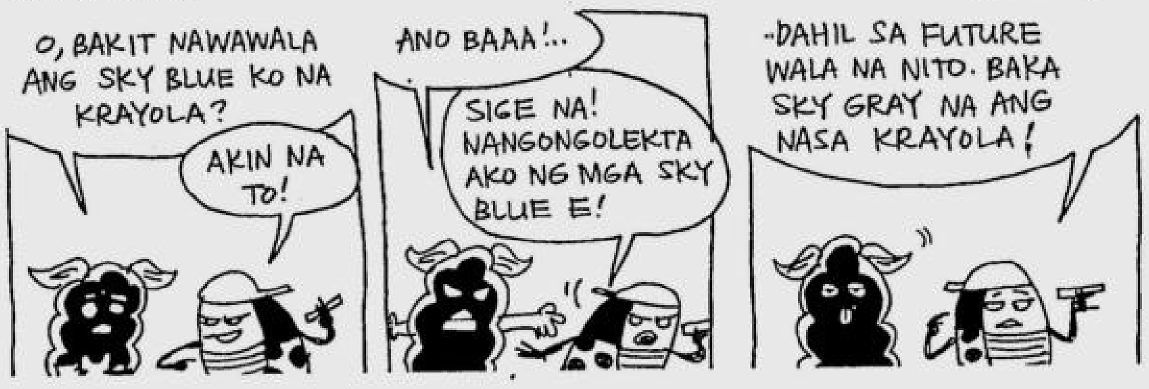
10/20/04

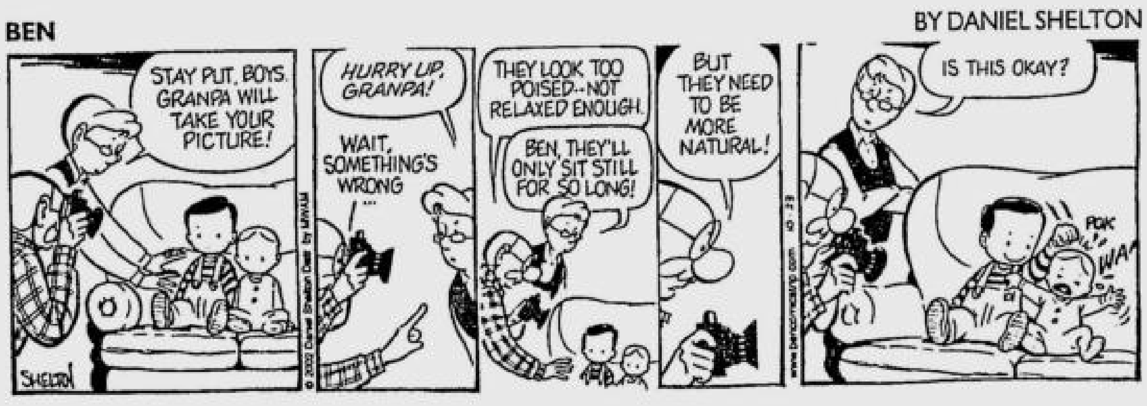
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, BAKIT NAWAWALA ANG SKY BLUE KO NA KRAYOLA?
AKIN NA TO!
ANO BAAA!..
SIGE NA! NANGONGOLEKTA AKO NG MGA SKY BLUE E!
-DAHIL SA FUTURE WALA NA NITO. BAKA SKY GRAY NA ANG NASA KRAYOLA!

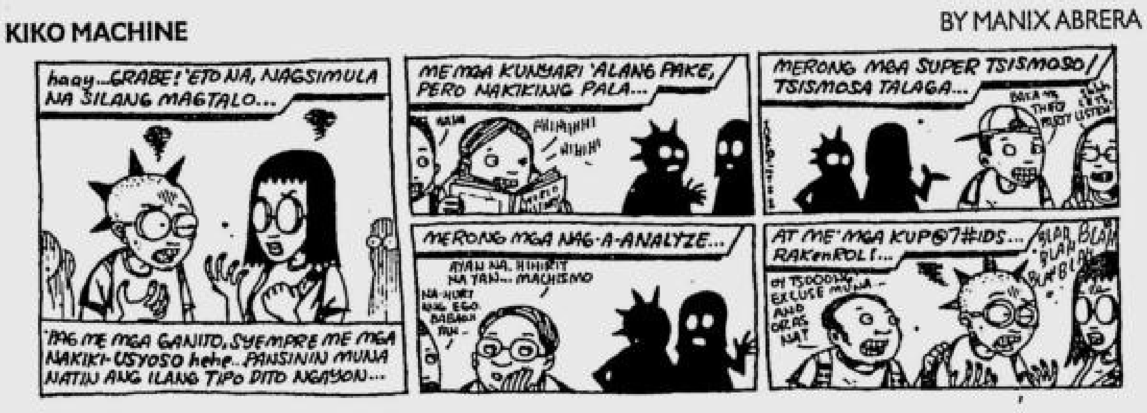
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


STAY PUT, BOYS. GRANPA WILL TAKE YOUR PICTURE!
HURRY UP, GRANPA!
WAIT, SOMETHING'S WRONG ...
THEY LOOK TOO POISED--NOT RELAXED ENOUGH.
BEN, THEY'LL ONLY SIT STILL FOR SO LONG!
BUT THEY NEED TO BE MORE NATURAL!
IS THIS OKAY?
POK
WAA

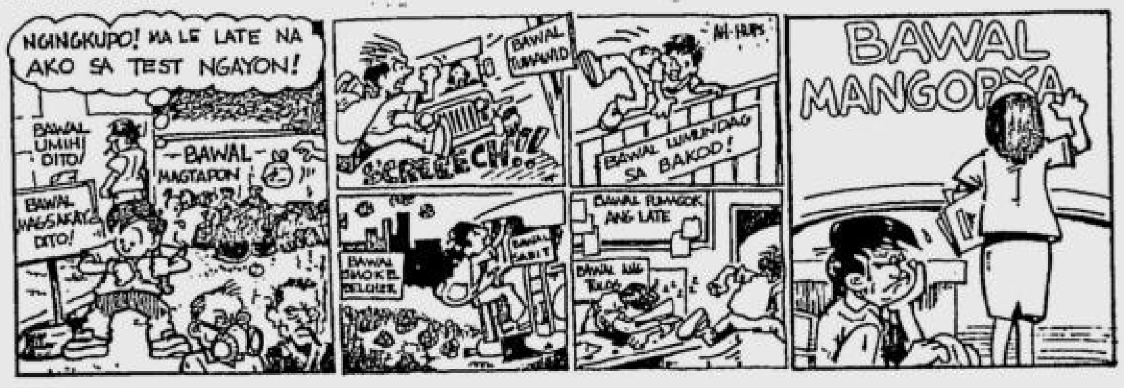
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haay...GRABE! 'ETO NA, NAGSIMULA NA SILANG MAGTALO...
'PAG ME MGA GANITO, SYEMPRE ME MGA NAKIKI-USYOSO hehe.. PANSININ MUNA NATIN ANG ILANG TIPO DITO NGAYON...
ME MGA KUNWARI 'ALANG PAKE, PERO NAKIKINIG PALA...
HIHIHIHI
HIHIHI
MERONG MGA SUPER TSISMOSO/TSISMOSA TALAGA...
MERONG MGA NAG-A-ANALYZE...
AYAN NA, HIHIRIT NA YAN... MACHISMO
AT ME' MGA KUP@7#IDS... RAKenROL!...
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

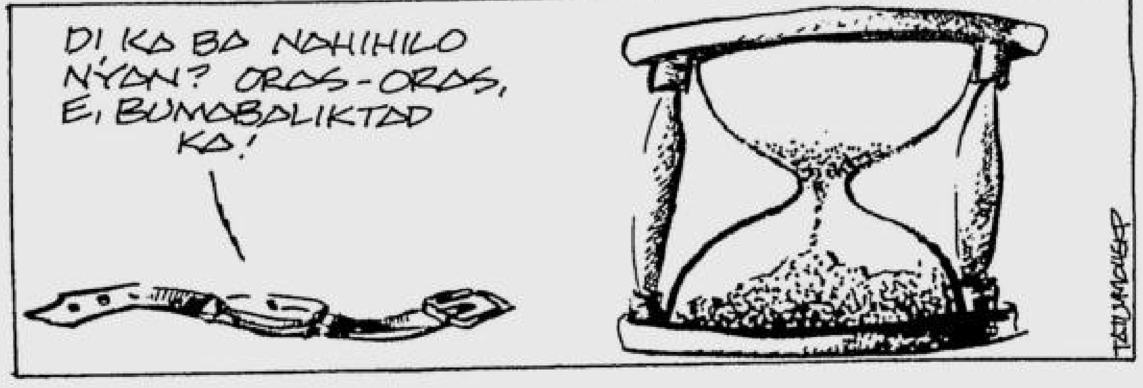
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


NGINGKUPO! MALE LATE NA AKO SA TEST NGAYON!
BAWAL UMIHI DITO!
BAWAL MAGSAKAY DITO!
—BAWAL— MAGTAPON
BAWAL TUMAWID
SCREEECH!
AH-HUPS
BAWAL LUMUNDAG SA BAKOD!
BAWAL SMOKE BELCHER
BAWAL PUMASOK ANG LATE
BAWAL MANGOPYA

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA BA NAHIHILO N'YAN? ORAS-ORAS, E, BUMABALIKTAD KA!

Malacañang accepts resignation of MTRCB Chair Laguardia

By Juliet Javellana and Marinel R. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the resignation of Movie and Television Review and Classification Board 'chair Ma. Consoliza P. Laguardia, Malacañang said yesterday.

A Malacañang statement said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in a letter yesterday, formally informed Laguardia about the President's acceptance of her resignation.

But Laguardia herself said she has neither received any word from Malacañang nor talked with Secretary Ermita about the resignation letter she filed last September.

"But I will wait for it," Laguardia said yesterday, referring to the Malacañang statement. "And as a good soldier, I will follow my leader. It's really up to the President."

Malacañang said the President has yet to announce a replacement for Laguardia.

The Malacañang statement said the term of Laguardia and the 30 board members of the MTRCB expired last Sept. 30.

Under Presidential Decree No. 1986 creating the MTRCB, the board's chair, vice chair, executive director and 30 board members have a one-year term subject to reappointment by the President.

Malacañang earlier denied that "Superstar" Nora Aunor, a supporter of Ms Arroyo, would be the next MTRCB chair.

Laguardia said she learned of the Malacañang announcement only from an employee of MTRCB who saw a flash report about it on TV.

"I didn't see that report," Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment on the phone.

"There are people who want the chairman out," said one MTRCB insider who, however, refused to elaborate.

Last July, MTRCB board member Msgr. Nico Bautista had called for Laguardia's immediate replacement for alleged "graft and corruption, immorality and misuse of funds."

In a one-page letter to Ms Arroyo, Monsignor Bautista accused Laguardia of "lack of direction and unimaginative leadership."

Bautista and another board member, Benjamin Bernales, had accused Laguardia of illegal disbursement of funds. Laguardia called their allegations "malicious and baseless."

MTRCB board members and officers of the MTRCB employee's association backed Laguardia and sent two letters of support to Malacañang.

Intoxicated drinks, under suspicious…

From page A29

Contestant 2: Germany and Russia!

(No, East and West Berlin!)

* * *

Quizmaster: In the Bible, who was swallowed by a whale?

Contestant: Pinocchio!

(No, Jonah.)

* * *

Host: What case are you filing against the overspeeding driver who hit your car?

Guest: Case of reckless impudence.

(Wow, bago 'yon a.)

* * *

Host: How can you make an ordinary gift look special?

Guest: Most all effectively, you have to make the beautiful wraps around the gifts!

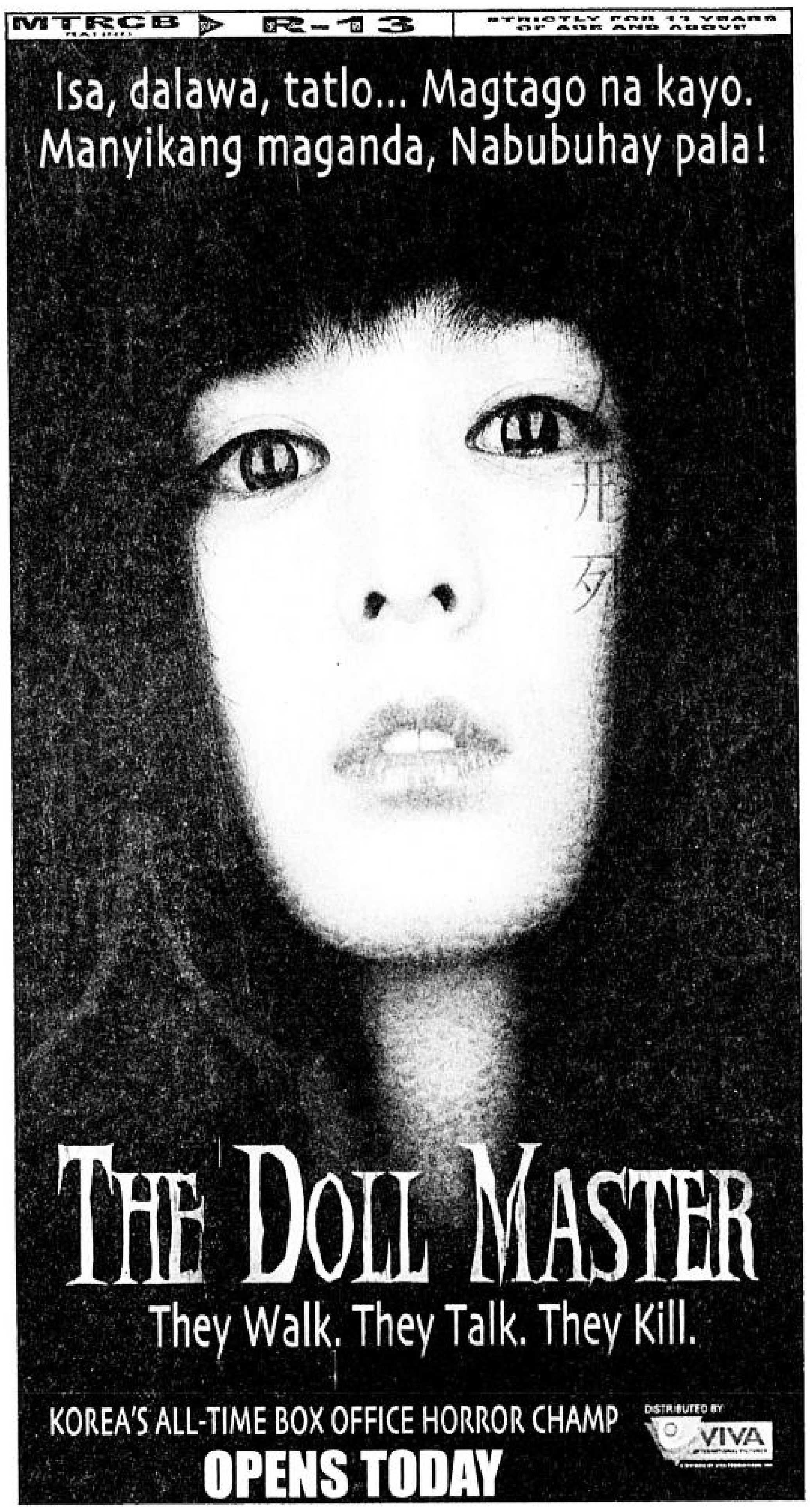
(*Ano raw?*)

* * *

Host: We have a sensitive topic coming up on our program tonight.

Co-host: That's right. So parents, we advise you there may be scenes and languages tonight that are not suitable for children!

(*What* languages aren't suitable for children? Piglish? Swardspeak? You mean only "language," didn't you?)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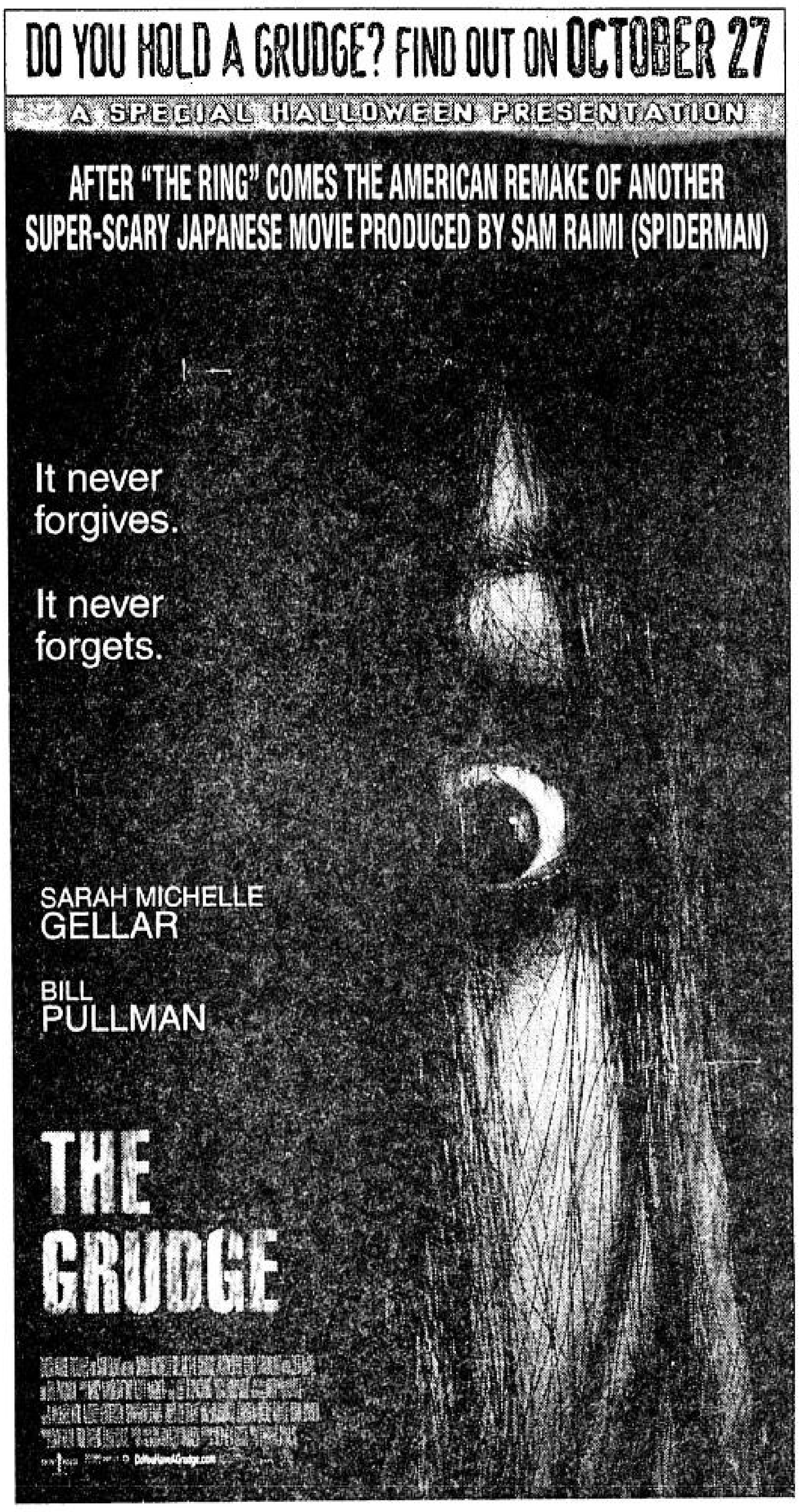
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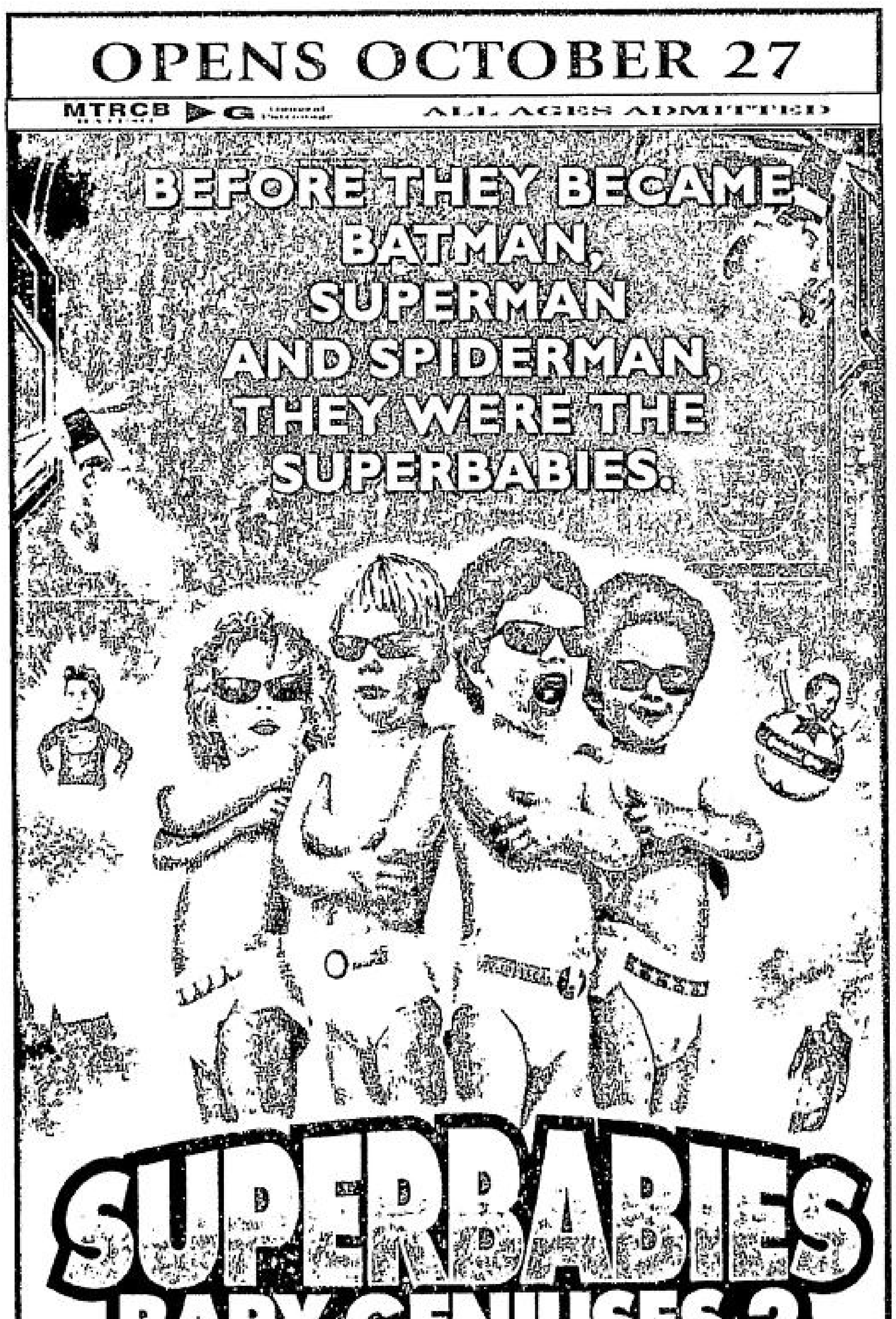
OPENS OCTOBER 27
MTRCB ▶ G
ALL AGES ADMITTED
BEFORE THEY BECAME BATMAN, SUPERMAN AND SPIDERMAN, THEY WERE THE SUPERBABIES.
SUPERBABIES
BABY GENIUSES 2
A FILM BY BOB CLARK

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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

DID YOU KNOW...

SIDE A guitar man **Kelly Badon** left the popular band about a month ago to retire from the music scene. Kelly is said to be planning to migrate to the United States with his family. He was replaced in the band by Lee Von Callao, 23, formerly with the group Pido with Take One.

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MMS STARBUKO MMS TAGHIBAP MMS JOKER MMS HAPIDOG MMS FART MMS EGROSS MMS EHAPPY MMS STAYOFF

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Sasakyan	*K & The Boxers*	TONE SASAKYAN	POLY SASAKYAN
Hey Ya	*Outkast*	TONE HEYYA	POLY HEYYA
Horny	*Mousse T*	TONE HORNY	POLY HORNY
Kikay	*Viva Hotbabes*	TONE KIKAY	POLY KIKAY
Ubos Na Ang Pasensya	*Salbakuta & Ogie Alcasid*	TONE UBOSNA	POLY UBOSNA
Let's Get It Started	*Black Eyed Peas*	TONE LETSGET	POLY LETSGET
Mmm Bop	*Hanson*	TONE MMMBOP	POLY MMMBOP
Halukay Ube	*Sexbomb*	TONE HALUKAY	POLY HALUKAY
Pretty Fly (For A White Guy)	*Offspring*	TONE PRETIFLY	POLY PRETIFLY
Swing, Swing	*All-American Rejects*	TONE SWING	POLY SWING
Anak Ni Luningning	*Denmark*	TONE ANAKNI	POLY ANAKNI
Long Distance	*Salbakuta*	TONE LONGDISTNCE	POLY LONGDISTNCE
Chuva Choo Choo	*Jolina Magdangal*	TONE CHUVA	POLY CHUVA
Asereje	*Las Ketchup*	TONE ASEREJE	POLY ASEREJE

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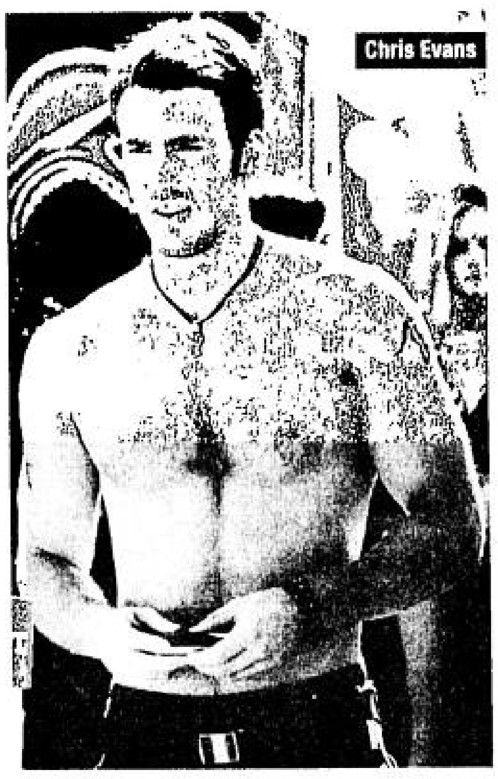
"'SPEED' with a heart "

says Roger Ebert


Chris Evans

If you love the character that Keanu Reeves portrayed in ***Speed***, you will love **Chris Evans** in **CELLULAR**. The film is a fastpaced edge-of-your-seat thrill ride from begining to end. Film critic ***Roger Ebert*** described **Cellular** as "SPEED with a heart."

What if you received a call on your cell phone from a complete stranger, with the frantic voice on the other end begging you to help save her life? Would you hang up immediately because it is none of your business? Would you risk your own life to help other people .

A random wrong number on his cell phone sends a young man into a high-stakes race against time to save a woman's life.

Jessica Martin, a teacher and mother is kidnapped from her home by assailants and taken to a secret location. Fearful for her life and completely in the dark as to her abductors' motives, Jessica manages to patch together a shattered telephone and secretly place a call to an unknown number in a last-ditch attempt to save herself. Ryan, the carefree young man who answers the panicked call, suddenly finds himself Jessica's last hope.

With no knowledge of Jessica other than her hushed, fearful voice on the other end of the tenuous cell phone connection, Ryan is quickly thrown into a world of conspiracy, deception and murder in a frantic search to find and save her. The lives of Jessica and her family are in his hands, but what is waiting for him on the other side of the line and what will it cost him to find out?

Chris Evan who plays Ryan in Cellular is the hottest young star in Hollywood today. His next role will be in FANSTASTIC FOUR, the big budgeted $150m megamovie next year. He will play Johnny Storm.

CELLULAR also stars *Academy Awards winner* **Kim Basinger** and **Jason Statham** *(The Transporter)*. •

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Public to shoulder bulk of 'pain package'

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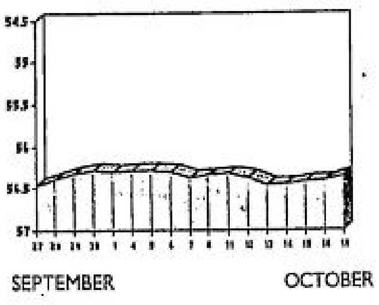

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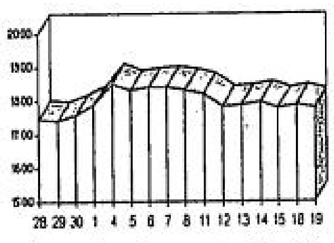
STOCK MARKET

Shares end down

STOCKS yesterday ended lower as local investors took their cue from losses in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) shares in New York to take profits on blue chips.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Traders said disappointment over fast food firm Jollibee Foods Corp.'s third-quarter profits also dampened sentiment ahead of third-quarter earnings results.

The Philippine stock index lost 11.13 points or 0.62 percent to end at 1,778.85 points, bucking the rise in most regional markets. The index is still up 23.33 points this year.

Traders said trade is likely to be confined in a narrow range in the coming sessions as investors wait for more quarterly results.

Buyers may emerge at the 1,770 level in the index, with initial resistance seen at 1,800, they said.

"We might see the market trading sideways, pending the release of third quarter corporate results," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

Reuters

P135B to come from new taxes, power rate hikes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

HOUSE economic affairs committee chair Rep. Jose Salceda yesterday said the public would shoulder P135 billion out of the P166 billion needed for the country's fiscal rehabilitation.

Speaking before semiconductor and electronics industry officials yesterday, Salceda said that the public's share in what he called the "pain package" included P64 billion in new taxes spread over two years and P71 billion in power rates hikes for National Power Corp. spread over two to three years.

For its part, the government's share amounts to P31 billion by way of cuts in public spending. This includes cuts in pork barrel amounting to P10 billion next year, another P10 billion in 2006 and P6 billion in 2007.

Salceda said the government's "pain" also involved shedding P5 billion in expenses by freezing the internal revenue allotment for local governments as wells as cuts in intelligence and social funds.

"The pain package is well-spread with the higher income classes taking bigger hits as a percentage of their income," the lawmaker said.

He explained that this was because "the tax package was mostly progressive except for the value added tax which is slightly regressive."

In a progressive tax, the more one earns the higher his (income) tax rate is. In a regressive tax, the less one earns the higher his tax rate is such as in sales tax.

"It (the burden) will principally be borne by the mass middle class— households with annual incomes above P60,000— since, in reality, there are very few rich families," Salceda said.

He said the negative impact of the power rate hikes on consumption would be staggered as adjustments would be implemented as follow: P1 per kilowatt-hour in 2005; 45 centavos per kWh in 2006, and 40 centavos in 2007.

As for the VAT, it was proposed to be increased from 10 percent to 12 percent in 2006 and further to 14 percent in 2007.

Malacañang is pushing for a package of eight new tax measures, which is seen to raise P80 billion.

Globe plans to raise $150M for 2005 capex

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. is planning to raise as much as $150 million in new loans to partly finance its $350-million network expansion and upgrade in 2005, according to its chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez.

"Most likely, we would have to borrow between $100 and $150 million for our capex next year," Gonzalez said. "We would have to source the rest from internally generated cash."

The telecom partnership of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom still has about $100 million in unused proceeds from its bond issue in July, Gonzalez said.

Globe Telecom Inc., the second-largest player controlled by Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom, on Monday launched G-Cash, a concept that would turn Globe handsets into virtual wallets that could send and receive Globe's unique currency.

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said that with the momentum and the G-Cash innovation, mobile subscribers would likely exceed 37 percent of the estimated 84 million Filipinos by yearend.

"I think it will even be more than that. By next year, we see between 45 and 50 percent of the population becoming mobile subscribers."

Globe's G-Cash should entice new subscribers and keep the old ones loyal to the network, according to the company president. Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers reached 10.5 million in June.

Ablaza said G-Cash was not comparable to any existing program. Smart launched its Smart Padala, Smart Money and 1528 Smart two months ago.

Ablaza said the company invested "a few million dollars" and a lot of research before launching

GLOBE/ B6

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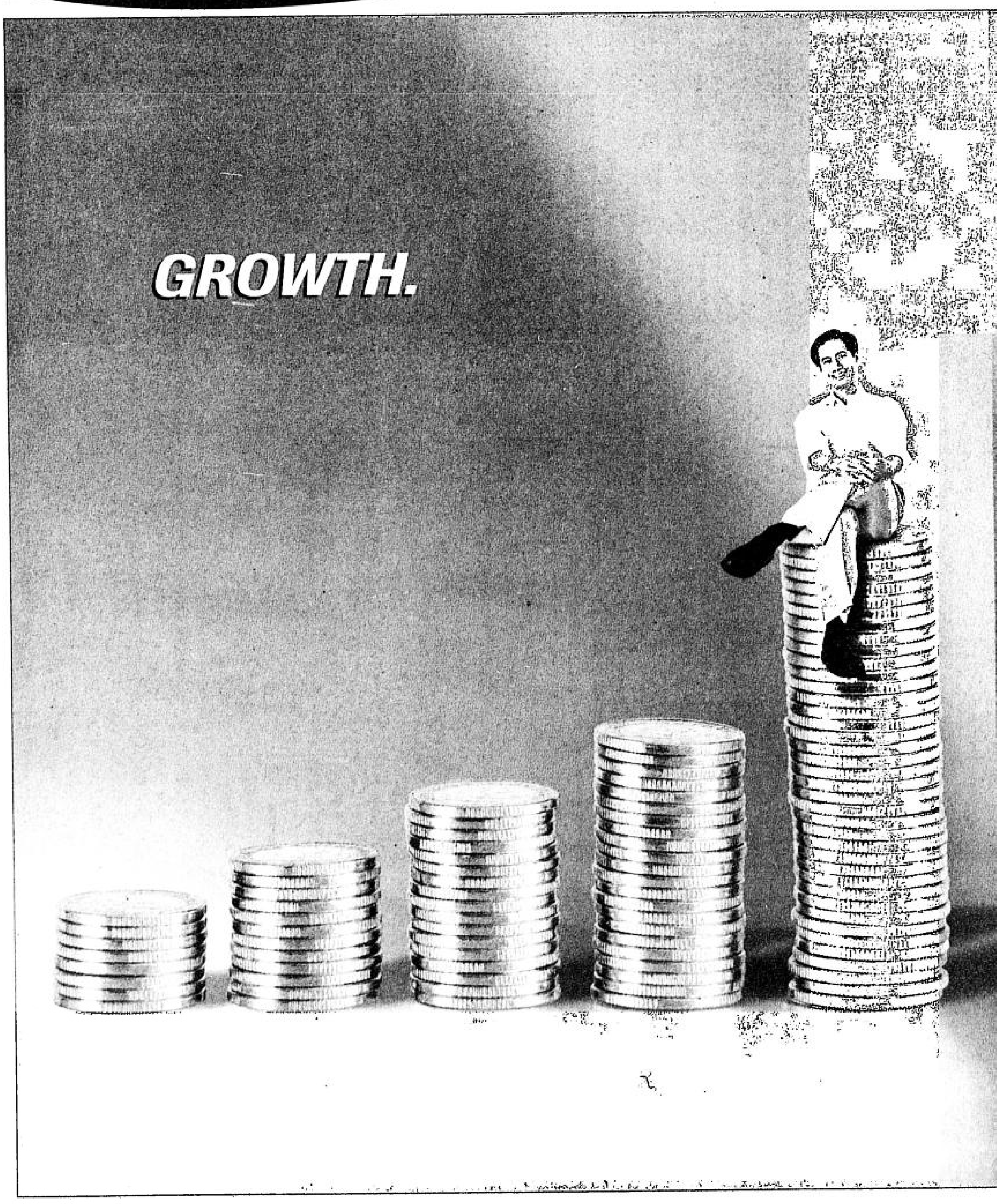

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Bourse reviews deals involving MPC shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) is looking into the trades of Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC), the local holding firm of Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Co., over disclosure concerns of stockbrokers.

Some local brokers have spoken to PSE president Francis Lim over heavy selling of MPC shares before First Pacific disclosed its plan to sell 5 percent of its stake in MPC. The move was aimed at raising funds for MPC's troubled inter-island shipping unit Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco).

"The PSE is conducting a formal review of transactions relating to the MPC shares and the appropriate departments will render their reports at the earliest possible time," PSE president Francis Lim said.

David Nugent, MPC vice president, said the sales were fully disclosed as required by the stock exchange. "Everything was done above board and to the highest disclosure standards," Nugent said.

Market sources told the INQUIRER that there was "massive selling" of MPC shares between August and October with a foreign broker spearheading the deals.

Sources said that last September, MPC disclosed new strate-

BOURSE/ B6

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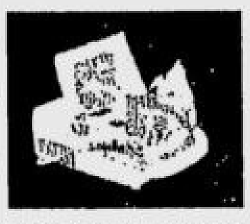

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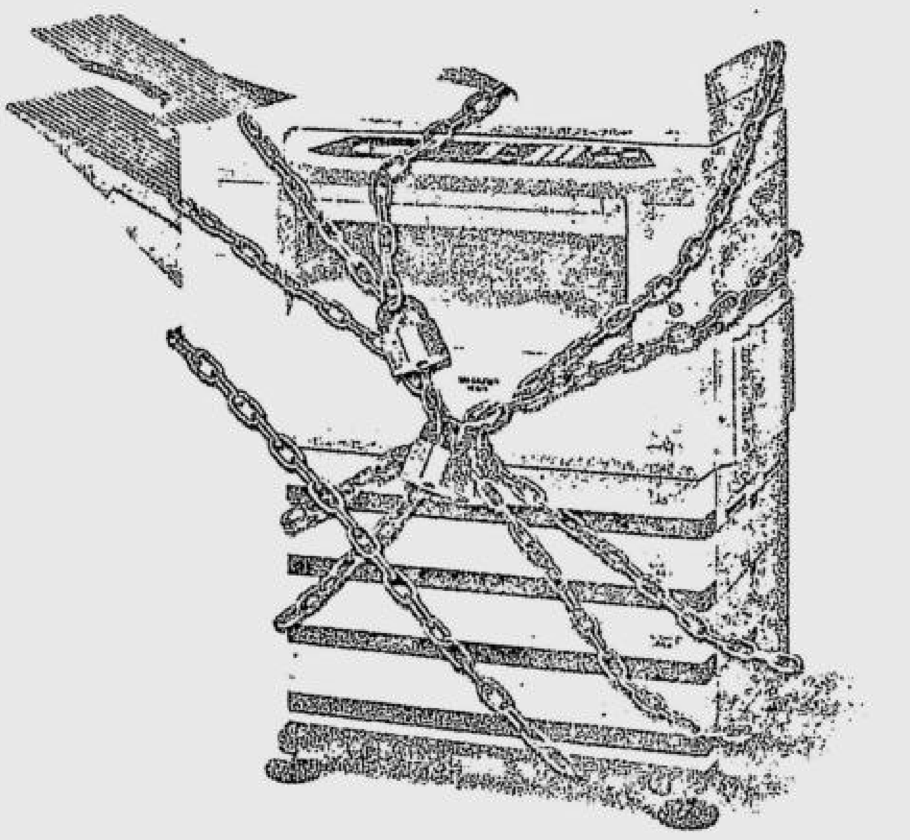

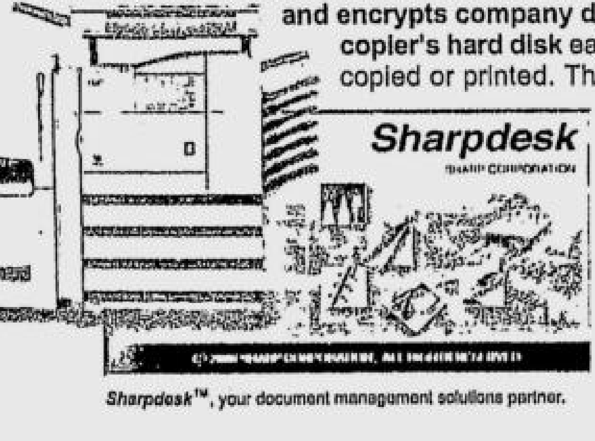

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(As of October 19, 2004)

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BANKS					
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Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	47	46.5	46.5	2,980,600
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	6,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	97,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	300,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27	27	160,200
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	27,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	13,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2440	2470	2440	2470	630
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1665	1665	1665	1665	1,180
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.34	1.34	10,088,000
Globe Telecom Inc	1045	1050	1045	1050	24,150
Ipeople Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	191,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	2,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	3,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.5	1,103,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.4	450,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1425	1425	1400	1405	256,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	3,850,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	54,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	15.75	15.75	66,000
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	242,200
Petron Corp.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	9,990,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	100,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	2,013,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.36	1,010,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	39,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.38	2.38	1,522,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	27.5	166,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57	10,500
Universal Robina Corp.	10	10	9.8	9.8	120,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	23,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	9,811,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4,418,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	111,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	136,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	800
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.54	0.55	310,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.175	0.155	0.16	13,300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.55	2.55	1,952,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	40,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.1	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	27	27	192,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	8,400,000
Ionics, Inc.	1.66	1.76	1.66	1.7	347,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	2	2	1.98	1.98	170,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	1,301,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.45	74,260,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	70,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.72	205,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.96	1,300,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	800,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	150,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.65	1,330,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.93	1,130,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.64	0.64	510,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	730,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.5	449,200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	3,701,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	870,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	2,250,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	9,130,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	5,497,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.23	0.205	0.23	1,070,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	60,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	151,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	6,328,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	300,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	25,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	24,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	122,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	820,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	9,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	143,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	134,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.51	0.51	0.48	0.48	1,380,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.57	0.57	0.54	0.54	1,720,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	5,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	28,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	94,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,500,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	204,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034	1,300,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	3,817,320	155,795,350.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	376,040,680	604,926,620.00
PRO	29,447,000	82,286,690.00
Mining	316,866,000	6,108,500.00
OIL	168,144,000	1,457,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	894,315,000	850,574,180.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc.	492.83	DOWN 6.80
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,800.53	DOWN 20.04
PRO	652.41	UP 4.13
Mining	2,006.69	DOWN 43.66
OIL	1.70	DOWN 0.04
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,113.99	UP 3.77
Composite	1,776.85	DOWN 11.13

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26, NO. OF DECLINES: 41, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114, NO. OF TRADES: 2,168

DISCLOSURES

CITY & Land Developers Inc. approved the appropriation of P100 million to finance the development of Pacific Regency on Pablo Ocampo Sr. Avenue (formerly Vito Cruz), Manila.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday (Oct. 19) set the listing of 250 common shares, bringing to 299,969 the number of common shares listed under the company's executive stock option plan.

* * *

ANSCOR Consolidated Corp. (ACC), a 100-percent owned subsidiary of A. Soriano Corp. (Anscor), bought 344,000 Anscor shares. As of Oct. 18, ACC owns a total of 715,974,777 Anscor shares.

* * *

JOAQUIN Dee, a director of China Banking Corp. (CBC), purchased 2,625 CBC shares on Oct. 14.

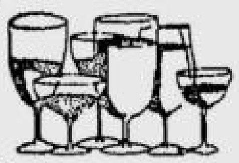
Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

October 19, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.799872	1.000000	56.4070
Japan	Yen	0.007322	0.009154	0.5163
United Kingdom	Pound	1.439130	1.799200	101.4876
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102674	0.128363	7.2400
Switzerland	Franc	0.650144	0.812810	45.8482
Canada	Dollar	0.636081	0.795220	44.8565
Singapore	Dollar	0.476730	0.596010	33.6196
Australia	Dollar	0.581346	0.726797	40.9964
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.121733	2.652590	149.6246
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213290	0.266667	15.0419
Brunei	Dollar	0.476322	0.594248	33.6107
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019290	0.024128	1.3610
UAE	Dirham	0.217783	0.272272	15.3580
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.250200	70.5200
Argentina	Peso	0.270410	0.338066	19.0693
Brazil	Real	0.279774	0.349773	19.7296
Denmark	Kroner	0.134476	0.168124	9.4834
India	Rupee	0.017457	0.021825	1.2311
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.210521	0.263193	14.8459
Mexico	New Peso	0.069604	0.087344	4.9268
New Zealand	Dollar	0.548459	0.685683	38.6773
Norway	Kroner	0.121707	0.152159	8.5828
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013343	0.016681	0.9409
South Africa	Rand	0.126137	0.157696	8.8952
Korea	Won	0.000700	0.000875	0.0494
Sweden	Kronur	0.110221	0.137798	7.7728
Syria	Pound	0.015522	0.019400	1.0946
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023763	0.029709	1.6758
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000418	0.000522	0.0294

Lambo on the lam

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

FORMER AIM president Felipe Alfonso has not been the lone victim within Metrobank of the checks scam involving former students of his at the Asian Institute of Management.

Metrobank has just dismissed a female branch manager, after the bank discovered that it lost P2.1 million in a checks encashment scam in their Pioneer Kapitolyo branch that had also involved the father and son Bitangas of Corinthian Gardens.

The Bitangas are said to be students who have earned the confidence of Alfonso that the latter even entrusted four pre-signed blank checks to Anthony Bitanga, a young car accessories shop owner in The Fort.

Instead of being used in a purported Batangas mission as had been directed by Alfonso, the young Bitanga palmed off the Alfonso checks, with a combined face value of P32.5 million, to acquire a Lamborghini Murcielago, a BMW 645 Ci and a BMW X3.

What is strange is that when Alfonso, who was a director and chair of the bank's risk management committee, entrusted his personal checks to Bitanga sometime in August, the Metrobank board had just concluded months of investigation and has approved the filing of estafa and falsification cases against the branch manager and Mateo Bitanga, the father of Anthony, who is himself facing a string of estafa cases in various Metro Manila courts.

Stranger still, Alfonso has desisted from filing any criminal or civil case against the young Bitanga for having fraudulently used his checks, despite the educator himself now being sued for estafa after three of his checks that Bitanga used bounced.

According to the grapevine, Alfonso last week even agreed to raise P3 million just so the missing Lamborghini, valued at P20 million, may finally be released by a car dealer-money lender to the original owner, who, in turn, would drop the estafa complaint against Alfonso.

As it turned out, the missing Italian muscle car had been in the custody of Quezon City car dealer Rolando Esguerra, along with the BMW 645 Ci. Esguerra's alibi, according to the grapevine, is that Bitanga pawned the two luxury cars to him, allegedly for P7 million.

With the exotic cars still unreturned to the registered owner, Camp Crame has issued a "hot car" alarm against the missing Lambo and Bimmer.

The other BMW, the X3, is apparently safe in the meantime, having been duly paid for, after the first of the four Alfonso checks, for P4 million, cleared. The German SUV was last seen being driven around by the young Bitanga, followed by a carload of bodyguards.

According to the grapevine, Alfonso called up the Metrobank Corinthian Plaza branch to hold off the encashment of the first check while he was scrambling to put funds into his account, which he managed to do after two days.

If this version is correct, then Alfonso knew all along as to how much and to what purpose his first check went.

Pacific opportunities

TWO more units at Pacific Plaza, the queen of the Ayala Ridge condos, are being unloaded through a sheriff sale at the Makati City Hall next week.

Both 285-sq.m., three-bedroom affairs, the condo units used to be owned by couple Alex and Nancy Go of Landlex Industries and by Mary Ann Crame.

Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Henry Sy Sr. is short of less than half a percentage point from becoming the undisputed majority owner of China Banking Corp.

The SM mall magnate is still pursuing his bit-by-steady-bit buying strategy of Chinabank shares from the market.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

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3 months	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%
6 months	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%
12 months	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%	3.500%

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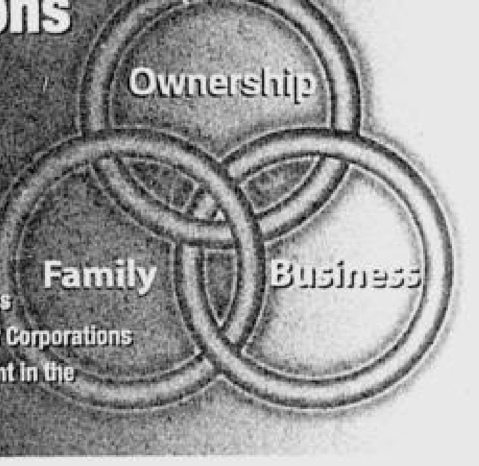
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Managing Family Corporations

Nov 22 - 26, 2004



- Defining the Role of the Family in the Business
- Identifying Key Issues & Challenges of Family Corporations
- Discovering Significant Areas for Improvement in the Management of Family Corporations

Program Overview

In this course, you will study together the powerful tools of effective families and businesses.
AIM believes in the strength of shared visions and strategic partnerships. Your partnership with AIM during the FAMCOR experience will enhance the partnerships within your own organization-partnerships borne out of the need to balance the interests of the family, professional employees, and the whole organization.
To help you achieve this critical balance, the FAMCOR course takes you through these important steps.
(1) An understanding of the family corporation as it currently exists. (2) Strategic planning to identify a vision for the future and (3) A plan to achieve the vision. The FAMCOR course will help you understand the management of family corporations from the following viewpoints: **(1) Family dynamics, (2) Family business systems and (3) Research.**

Recommended for
Family members and professional managers of family-owned businesses. Participants should be at least 21 years old or college graduates.

Program Benefit
This family business management course will help you to identify and analyze the key issues and challenges of family corporations. You will understand the distinctive qualities and interrelationships of family corporations as well as recognize potential areas for improvement within the family business. Through the viewpoints of family dynamics and family business systems, you will be able to develop and implement improvements to ensure growth.
For maximum benefit and impact, family corporations should be represented by at least two family members (from different generations) and at least one professional manager. However, individual enrollment is also acceptable.

Content

Family Systems:
- The Genogram
- Individuation
- Power
- Conflict Management
- Family Theories

Business Systems:
- Succession
- Professionalization and Corporate Culture
- Boards and Governance
- Managing Transitions
- Estate Planning and Valuation

Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzales
Program Director
Prof. Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzales is a core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center. She specializes in development and design of management games, structured learning exercises, applications of Oriental philosophy to business management exercises. She handled projects that are brought to the classroom as alternatives to cases. She has written 50 cases and a research paper on various subjects such as corporate strategy, total quality management, problem-solving, decision-making, human resource development, organizational development, and general management. Her specific areas of interest are learning organizations, management of change and family corporations.
She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of the Philippines (1983) and a Master in Business Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (1992).

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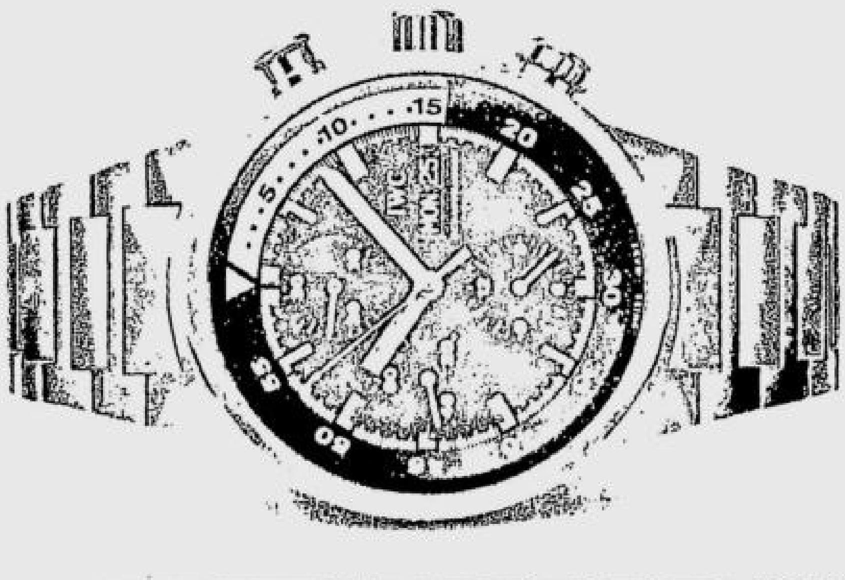

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IWC Schaffhausen. Switzerland.

RP posted trade surplus in Aug.; key imports fell

THE PHILIPPINES posted its first monthly trade surplus in six months in August, government data showed on Tuesday, but a fall in electronics imports raised concerns that one of the country's main trade engines was slowing.

Exports exceeded imports by $36 million in August, reversing a deficit of $101 million a year earlier and $310 million in July, the National Statistics Office said.

Imports rose 8.9 percent to $3.38 billion from a year earlier, but fell from July's tally of $3.42 billion.

Electronics imports, which accounted for 42.5 percent of the total, fell 2.9 percent from a year earlier and 3.3 percent from July to $1.437 billion.

It was the second straight month to show an annual fall.

A slowdown in electronics imports, most of which are reassembled for export, is a signal exports will slow.

"Still continuously weak imports on the electronics side, which doesn't bode that well for exports going forward," said Nicholas Bibby, a strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore.

"Certainly, I don't think we're going to see a marked acceleration of export growth in the coming months ... this is in line with what we have started to see happening in other countries as well," he added.

The government—battling chronic budget deficits, tax evasion and corruption—has warned that healthy first-half growth in electronics exports may taper off in the second half as a global technology sector recovery slows.

Exports in August, announced earlier this month, were $3.415 billion, up 13.7 percent from a year earlier. The figures are not seasonally adjusted.

The trade deficit in the first eight months was $1.479 billion, 11.5 percent smaller than the same period last year.

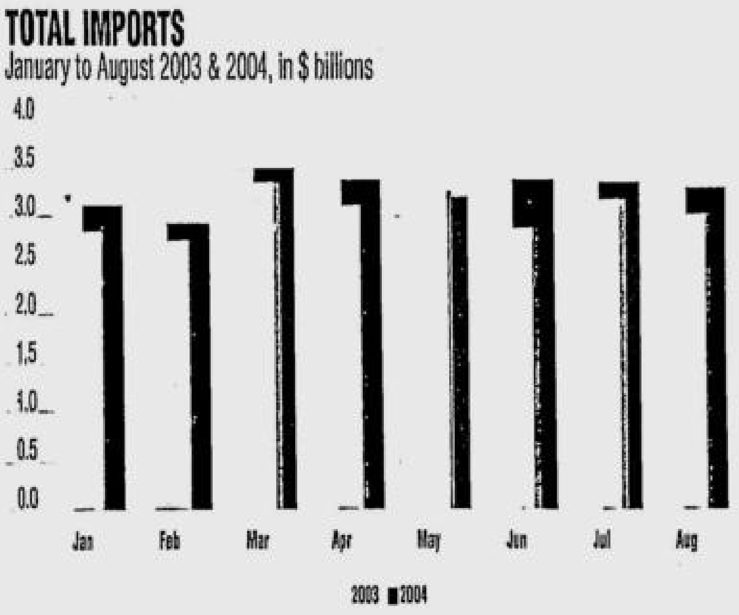
Record high oil prices may have pushed up overall imports for the Philippines, which imports nearly all its crude needs, AB Capital analyst Jose Vistan said.

The weak peso, which has been brushing its record low of 56.45 to the US dollar, was likely to keep a lid on imports in the coming months, he added.

"Imports tend to be a leading indicator and I would say achieving 8-percent growth is quite respectable, but not exactly comforting," Vistan said.

The Philippines, whose trade deficit widened to $1.27 billion last year from $218 million in 2002, imports almost all of its electronics parts for assembly and export, as well as crude oil, industrial machinery, transport equipment, rice, corn and wheat.

Reuters


TOTAL IMPORTS
January to August 2003 & 2004, in $ billions

Daimler-Chrysler to use RP abaca

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE abaca has found its way into a Daimler-Chrysler luxury vehicle.

This came after the global automaker approved the use of Philippine abaca for the exterior lining of its class A cars, which include the Plymouth and the Mercedes Benz.

Daimler-Chrysler consultant Dr. Werner Muhlbauer told the INQUIRER yesterday that Philippine abaca met the standards of the German firm, and could substitute for the non-recyclable fiberglass used to line the cars' chassis.

"Daimler-Chrysler has decided to incorporate Philippine abaca for its composite materials for the exterior lining of its cars. It has the same strength as fiberglass, minus the weight," Muhlbauer said.

Dr. Muhlbauer performed the scientific testing of Philippine abaca, with the assistance of the Leyte State University.

He added that they were still studying if Philippine abaca could also be used for the cars' interiors.

"Daimler-Chrysler just wants an assurance that the quality and quantity of Philippine fiber could be sustained in the next five years. We hope there would not be too much price fluctuations," Muhlbauer added.

Abaca fiber was the country's first top agriculture export.

It is used as raw material for cordage, rope, as well as tea bags.

According to Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) Administrator Cecilia Gloria Soriano, exports of abaca fiber to United Kingdom, Japan, United States, Canada, Indonesia, India and Spain rose by 59.3 percent to 13,115 metric tons as of end-August.

Soriano said the industry hoped to recover from diseases that brought down exports, such as the abaca bunchy top and the bract mosaic.

The abaca producers have planted different abaca varieties in different areas to boost production and reclaim the country's place in the abaca export market.

The Fida and funding firm Common Fund for Commodities have put in close to $1.5 million to boost abaca production.

CA denies Tsuneishi claim against troubled Nenaco

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE COURT of Appeals has denied the claim of Japan's Tsuneishi Heavy Industries against troubled inter-island shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco) for lack of merit.

The Oct.6 decision of the CA penned by Associate Justice Juan Enriquez Jr. agreed with Nenaco's stand that creditors' claims against the company were suspended pending its rehabilitation.

The decision stemmed from Tsuneishi's petition last February with a Cebu court to attach or take over a Nenaco vessel as payment for some P111 million in unpaid dry-docking and ship repair fees.

Tsuneishi also initiated garnishment proceedings of Nenaco's account with Prudential Bank, to cover part of Nenaco's debts to the Japanese company.

The Cebu court attached Nenaco's M/V St. Peter the Apostle a month later, but the order was not implemented after Nenaco filed a petition for corporate rehabilitation with the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Tsuneishi had earlier attempted to seize the ship with 700 passengers on board to force the immediate payment of past accounts.

Nenaco is 98-percent owned by property firm Metro Pacific Corp., the local flagship firm of Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd.

Metro Pacific had offered to buy shares held by minority shareholders

Nenaco's financial troubles came in the wake of the 1997 Asian currency crisis, as the sudden depreciation of the peso against the US dollar roughly doubled the cost of servicing its dollar-denominated debts.

Japanese ship builder Tsuneishi, on the other hand, is a partner of Nenaco rival Aboitiz Transport Systems Corp.

Nenaco asked the court for debt relief to give it some breathing space to implement its court-approved recovery program, that would enable it to pay over P2.5 billion in debt.

Tsuneishi appealed the case with the CA, but the appellate court upheld the Manila RTC decision, saying the lower court did not abuse its authority when it issued the stay order against Tsuneishi.

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10:15 - 10:50 KEYNOTE SPEECH -
Business Partnering: Towards a Sustainable Future
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Presidential Adviser on Job Creation
Chairman, Land Bank of the Philippines
10:50 - 11:40 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS – First Plenary
"Developing Successful Partnership in the Local Market"
Agri-business......................Secretary Arthur C. Yap
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Tourism..............................Secretary Joseph Ace Durano
Department of Tourism (DOT)
Trade..................................Mr. Dave Morin
President, Goodyear Philippines
11:40 - 12:25 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS – Second Plenary
"Developing Successful Partnership in the International Market"
Agri-marketing....................APO Expert
Thailand
Tourism..............................Datuk Dr. Victor Wee Eng Lye
Secretary General
Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia
Trade..................................Mr. Ricky Manuel
President/Founder
Green Mango Trading, USA
12:50 - 1:50 AWARDING CEREMONY:
1st Business Excellence Awards for SMEs
(with separate program)
2:00 - 3:00 THIRD PLENARY – Developing Partnership for e-business
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Ateneo Graduate School of Business
Call Center..........Mr. Rudy Ngaw
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CEO Intelliscribe
Animation..........................Ms. Marilyn Montano
President,
Animation Council of the Philippines
Accounting Software..........Mr. Royce Reyes
Managing Director, Balmori Software, Inc.
3:00 - 3:20 Medical Services:
Fastest Growing Small Business
per Fortune Magazine Small Business 100
Speaker..............................Dr. Bu C. Castro
President, Philippine Medical Association
3:35 - 3:55 Science Development and Technology Discoveries Unlimited
Speaker..............................Mr. Pelagio Battung Jr.
Vice President
Power and Telephone Supply Philippines
3:55 - 4:15 The Role of Continuing Education in Business Partnering
Speaker..............................Mr. Jim Omps
President
International University of Entreprenology,
Hawaii, USA
4:15 - 4:35 BUSINESS SHOWCASE
Maximizing Profitability through Business Partnering
Speaker..............................Mr. Joey Gurango
Founder and CEO, Webworks O.S.
4:35 - 5:30 LAUNCHING OF THE PHILSMED MARKETING WEBSITE
Messages............................Dr. Mina T. Gabor
President, PHILSMED
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Texas Instruments expects 10% sales growth

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TEXAS Instruments Philippines expects its sales revenues to go up by at least 10 percent to $3 billion this year, according to company president Norberto Viera.

Viera said this was a 'normal' growth figure considering the same trend in the digital cellular communications industry.

He said that for next year, TIP was expecting sales to grow by 5 percent to 6 percent in line with the projected 10 percent to 11 percent growth in the electronics sector.

The company, whose parent unit is based in Dallas, is engaged in the production of digital signal processors and analog technologies used in cellular phones, the Internet, cameras and audio electronics.

TIP's DSPs represent all of such processors used in Nokia cellular phones and 80 percent of all the processors used in Siemens units.

Viera further said that in preparation for growth, TIP had earmarked some $300 million in additional investment over the next two or three years.

He said the amount would fund the development of a facility that would add 50 percent in the company's production capacity.

TIP is also scheduled to introduce next year new products such as the stack die used in third-generation mobile phones. Texas Instruments is already producing this product in Japan and Korea and will expand production here.

In a related matter, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines said investments in the sector that were registered with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reached P19.5 billion.

The amount represents 67 businesses that generated a total of some 23,000 jobs.

According to Seipi, which held its annual CEO Forum yesterday, the country now represented 10 percent of the world supply of semiconductor manufacturing services, 50 percent of the world's production of 2.5-inch hard disk drives, and 10 percent of the world's production of 3.5-inch HDDs.

Other big names in the industry that have investments in the county are Intel with its largest microprocessor and flash test factory, Toshiba which has located one of three plants that are the world's only manufacturers of laptops.

The three largest HDD producers in the Philippines are Hitachi Ltd. with 500,000 units a year; Fujitsu Computer Product Corp. and Toshiba.

BSP tightens screening of bank auditors

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has further tightened the screening of external auditors that would check the books of banks and other financial institutions.

The BSP said in a recent circular that it would set performance standards for external auditors, who must also go through a stringent pre-qualification and accreditation process.

Based on the new rules, the selection of external auditors would be valid for three years, after which the auditors must renew their mandate.

"The (BSP's) Supervision and Examination Sector shall make an annual assessment of the performance of external auditors and will recommend deletion from the list even prior to the three-year renewal period, if based on assessment, the external auditors' report did not comply with BSP requirements," the BSP said.

External auditors that will meet the requirements provided in the circular shall be included in the list of accredited external auditors.

In case of a partnership, inclusion in the list of selected external auditors shall apply to the audit firm only, not to the individual signing partners or auditors under its employment, the circular said.

Only external auditors accredited by the BSP are allowed to conduct regular audits on banks, subject to the following conditions:

- No external auditor may be engaged by a bank if he had or was committed to acquire any direct or material indirect financial interest in the bank, or if his independence is considered impaired under the circumstances specified in the Code of Professional Ethics for Certified Public Accountants.

In the case of a partnership, this limitation shall apply to the partners, associates and the auditor-in-charge of the engagement;

- The external auditor and the members of the audit team do not have/shall not have outstanding loans or any credit accommodations (except credit card obligations) with any bank to be audited/being audited at the time of signing the engagement and during the engagement;
- The external auditor and members of the audit team adhere to the highest standards of professional conduct, including integrity and objectivity; and
- The external auditor should have at least five years of track record in conducting external audit.

The BSP said it would give out the list of selected external auditors to all banks, quasi banks, trust entities and non-stock savings/loan associations every year.

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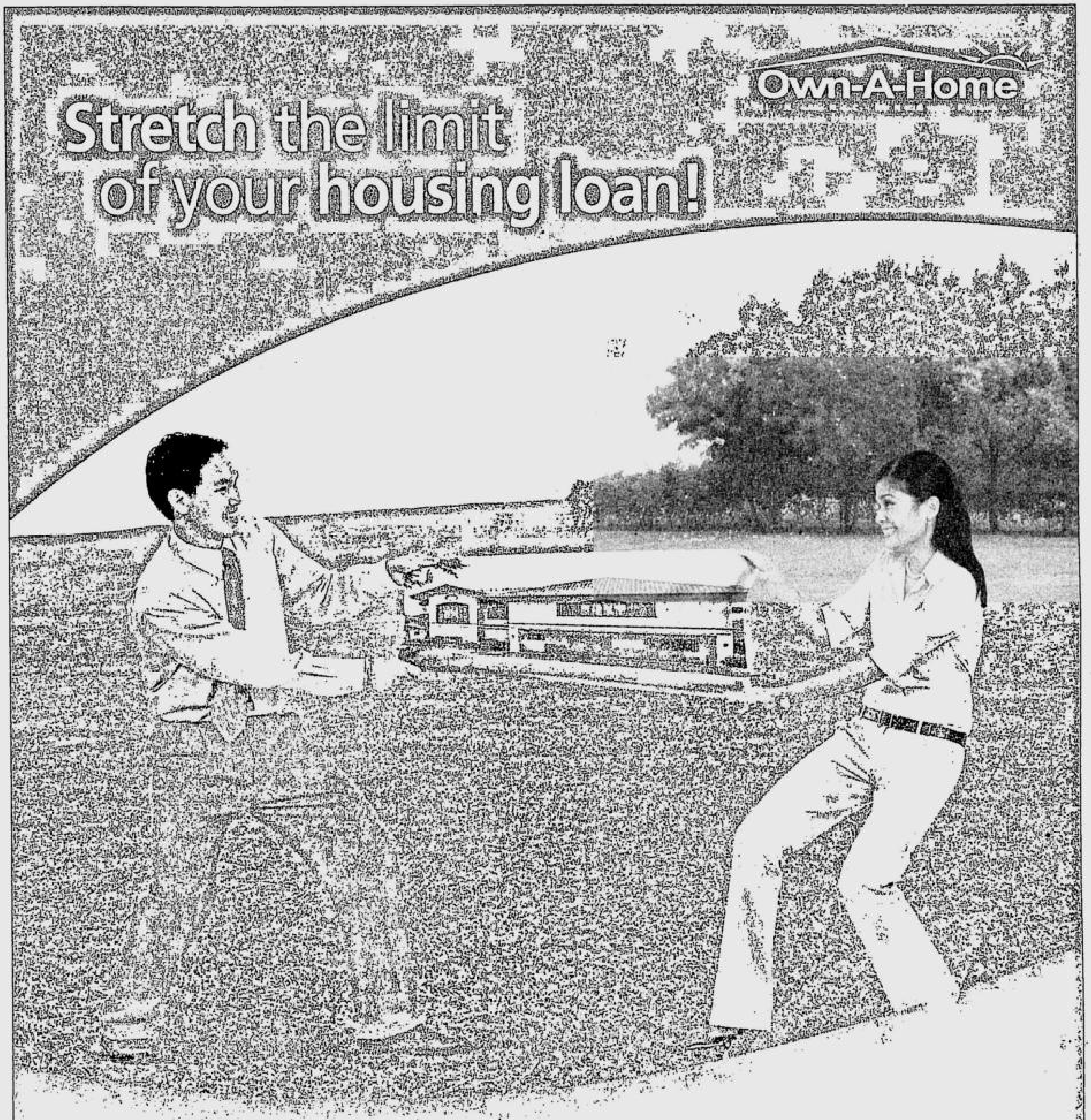
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54 Years

Gov't under fire for absorbing ₱200-B Napocor debt

Solons call for full public accounting of how debts were incurred and why money was borrowed

ROXAS

By Abigail L. Ho

SOLONS from both houses of Congress lashed out at the national government for going ahead with the absorption of P200 billion of the National Power Corp.'s debts even though it had virtually no way of repaying these.

Militant lawmaker Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis party-list group accused the government of being an inconsistent hypocrite, moving ahead with the Napocor debt absorption even after declaring a fiscal crisis.

"President Arroyo keeps exhorting everyone to scrimp and save, and has even told Filipinos to make do with food coupons instead of demanding jobs and housing," Beltran said in a statement. "But now we hear that the government is willing and even eager to absorb P200 billion in debts. Where are the funds going to come from to pay off these debts but from taxpayers?

"It's evident that all these austerity measures are directed toward paying off debts the Filipino people did not benefit from—debts that are highly anomalous and have even yet to be comprehensively audited."

Administration Sen. Manuel Roxas II likewise called for a thorough accounting of the debts the government would remove from Napocor's shoulders.

Before the debts could be absorbed, Roxas said a full public accounting on how the debts were incurred, why the money was borrowed, and for what exact purposes the liabilities were contracted should be completed.

Malacañang last week issued Executive Order No. 370 which allowed the national government to directly assume P200 billion of Napocor's debts.

The order was issued in connection with Section 32 of Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), giving the national government the power to directly assume up to P200 billion of the state firm's obligations.

It took effect Oct. 15, immediately after it was published in a newspaper of general circulation. No announcement, other than the newspaper ad, was made about it.

Under the EO, the Department of Finance, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management and the Commission on Audit, will work out the details on how to go about the debt absorption.

These details will include identifying the specific debts to be assumed; making arrangements with Napocor, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. and the national government; the proper treatment and recording of the transactions; and the actual implementation of the debt assumption.

Fitch Ratings questions RP over pace of fiscal reforms

By Doris C. Dumlao

A VISITING team from the credit ratings firm Fitch Ratings has questioned government economic managers on the slow pace of fiscal reforms, rising inflation and shrinking current account surplus.

Amando Tetangco, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas deputy governor, yesterday said the London-based ratings firm asked about the progress of the new fiscal measures the Arroyo administration had committed to shortly after it secured a fresh six-year term after the last elections.

Fitch Ratings earlier warned that the Philippines was running the risk of a further downgrade of its sovereign credit rating.

The ratings firm, whose biggest concerns were the government's sagging tax revenues and the deep-seated financial debt problems of the power sector, has given the country 18 months to pass the legislative measures needed to shore up tax revenues and ease public sector debt woes.

"It was about the same concerns that were raised during the roadshow," Tetangco said, citing queries on fiscal reforms.

During last month's global roadshow held across Asia, Europe and the United States, investors aired their anxiety over key Philippine legislative measures and the timetable set for their passage.

On the monetary side, Tetangco said Fitch Ratings also asked about the BSP's prospects on inflation amid runaway oil prices.

BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo, who attended the separate technical meetings with Fitch Ratings, said the monetary authorities had explained that the 4-5 percent target range for this year and the next would be breached due to supply bottlenecks.

"But we told them that, starting the middle of 2005, we'll go back to the 4-5 percent target range," Guinigundo said.

Fitch Ratings likewise asked the BSP about its outlook on the balance of payments, given the slowdown in the current account surplus from about $1 billion last year to about $1.5 billion this year.

The BOP measures foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

Guinigundo said the lower current account surplus this year was due to the rise in imports and did not mean that the economy was becoming less competitive in global trade.

The rise in import bill was affected by the skyrocketing oil prices, although Guinigundo said the adverse impact on trade versus projections was only about $400 million for this year.

Bourse reviews deals . . .

From page B2

gies and plans, including its participation in a South Super Highway project.

Share prices of MPC hit a day high of 63 centavos last Sept. 9 and a day-low of 35 centavos last Oct.13

Brokers aired concerns over First Pacific's compliance to disclosure policies and why it did not disclose much earlier that it was planning to sell its shares in MPC to the public.

First Pacific raised roughly P450 million from the sale of its 5 percent stake in MPC, involving 930.2 million shares, which was completed last week.

First Pacific plans to use the proceeds from the sale to fund the general corporate requirements of MPC. This will include "certain funding support needed to implement the rehabilitation plan of Nenaco.

Nenaco needs to raise P130 million to fund the rehabilitation of its fleet. Last month, MPC provided P120 million in loans to Nenaco.

Globe to raise $150M for 2005 capex

From page B1

the new program.

"We are not saying the competitor doesn't have what we have," according to the Globe president. "But this is a program different from anything that was previously launched. We would like to use the mobile phone in ways that have never been possible."

G-Cash would allow Globe subscribers to send and receive the new currency. They may also use it to buy goods, eat in restaurants.

G-Cash is different from the mobile phone load. G-Cash could be loaded in accredited centers and banks or could be transferred via overseas or domestic remittance. Globe's currency could also be transferred from another subscriber.

Globe said that the program followed requirements against money laundering and was adequately secured against theft and hacking. If a phone with G-Cash was stolen, Globe said a subscriber could call 7392882.

"This is a program where we don't have a specific target market," said Ablaza. "We are hoping transactions will surpass the level of the Auto Load Max. We want to create a whole new ecosystem of texting and transferring value."

According to Gonzalez, of the $350 million in capital expenditures programmed this year, about $200 million would be on the network rollout.

Ablaza said the company would roll out at least another 1,000 cellular sites next year to expand its coverage. Globe is targeting to end the year with about 3,600 cellular sites, allowing it to cover 85 percent of the population.

Globe's network could support a subscriber base of more than 13 million. Fierce rival Smart Communications Inc. already had more than 4,000 mobile sites, allowing it to cover more than 90 percent of the population.

WITH Globe's momentum and its G-Cash innovation, mobile phone subscribers may exceed 37 percent of the population by yearend, according to Globe's top executive.

The strategy to aggressively tap the lower segment of the market by going deeper into the provinces and remote areas appeared to be paying off, according to Ablaza.

He said Globe's wider network coverage helped the company sign up more subscribers from the provinces.

Ablaza said Globe would also explore regional ventures in partnership with Singapore Telecom.

SingTel owns 40 percent of Globe.

SingTel said it would bring the G-Cash concept to its other markets in Asia. SingTel has 6 telecom companies in the region. Globe said it would announce third quarter results on Oct. 28.

DOTC taps PPA earnings to put up maritime hubs, upgrade facilities

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation is tapping the earnings of the Philippine Ports Authority worth P550 million to put up new port facilities and upgrade old ones in strategic areas in the country.

The move is aimed at facilitating the swift transport of farm goods and other products to reduce the costs of transporting them.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the government was planning to put up seaports in the western, central and eastern nautical highway. These areas are not fully covered by the roll-on, roll-off or Roro system. Specifically, the hubs are intended to be put up in the Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan (Mimaropa) corridor; the West Mindanao link covering the islands of Zamboanga, Basilan, Jolo and Tawi-Tawi, and the Northeastern Luzon link including Real, Baler, Bilasag, Maconacon, Dingalan, Casiguran in Quezon Province; Palanan, and San Vicente in Cagayan.

Transport Assistant Secretary Roberto Castanares said the cost of putting up the facilities and of upgrading existing ports was placed at about P550 million.

"Most of the funds will have to come from the PPA," according to Castanares in an interview.

The transport department said a number of ports were scheduled for upgrade or rehabilitation.

These are the ports along the Matnog-Sorsogon-Bulan-Culasi connection; Tacloban-Palompon-Bogo-Hagnaya-Sta. Fe-Bantayan-Cadiz-Concepcion-Culasi; the Lipata-San Ricardo-Padre Burgos-Maasin-Tapal-Tagbilaran-Argao-Santander-Dumaguete link; and the Manila-Coron-Taytay-Cuyo-San Juan de Buenavista-Iloilo-Bacolod-San Carlos-Toledo-Cebu-Jetafe-Guindulman-Guinsiliban-Balilngoan-Cagayan de Oro corridor.

Mendoza said that steps were being taken to ensure that the country's ports were safe and adequately secured.

Mendoza said the PPA was not among the attached agencies of the DOTC that would be allowed to raise fees. He said the PPA should even bring down its fees to help reduce the prices of commodities being transported from the provinces to the other parts of the country.

The PPA earlier said it would revisit plans to hike fees and charges by 20 percent, which, once implemented, could raise the agency's collection by about P180 million each year.

The PPA is tasked to operate government-owned ports, help regulate the maritime industry and put up more ports to improve the flow of goods and services.

The maritime agency is one of the government's big revenue earners in terms of fees collected from every foreign vessel that dock in local ports and dues paid by private port operators. It also charges terminal fees to persons and vehicles boarding Roro.

The port agency reported a net income of P1.22 billion in the first six months or 33 percent higher than year-ago level. The PPA said it was targeting to double its profit this year to P1.6 billion from a little over P800 million last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Bids and Awards Committee- Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to apply for eligibility for:

Qty	Unit	Article(s)/Specification(s)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Lot		Supply, delivery, installation and testing of hardware, software and training for the IT Network Security System. Installation includes start-up and basic configuration for the appliance and software per BSP scope of work and specifications. The Project consists of the following solutions:	
	A	Intrusion Detection System	P1,100,000.00
	B	Authentication System and Secure Remote Office Connectivity	1,800,000.00
	C	Security Management and Analysis Softwares	300,000.00

Interested bidders must submit the following documents to the Bids and Awards Committee, Room 212, 2nd Flr, Five-Storey Building corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila not later than 29 October 2004 at 4:30 p.m

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statements & Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by BIR or its authorized agent banks
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number
5. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC)* which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate. The commitment or deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows
*NFCC= [(Current assets- Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K=10
7. Duly notarized statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation.
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check.
9. Duly notarized certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
11. Certification from the manufacturer of the hardware/software that the vendor/solution provider is an authorized reseller of the following:
Lot A- Security Products offering top quality IDS/IPS and Honeypot solutions
Lot B- Authentication Systems and Secure Remote Office Connectivity
Lot C- Security Management and Analysis Software
12. Sworn certification from the vendor that their technical teams are certified and qualified to install, set-up, configure and support their proposed solutions for each lot.
13. List of clients with successful implementation of their proposed solutions for each lot.
14. Photocopy of a document indicating that the proposed Intrusion Detection/Prevention System product is listed as finalist to Best Security Solution 2004 Award under "The Principal Awards Category" by *SC Magazine Global Awards 2004*. (For Lot A only)
15. For Lot B only:
    - Certification from the manufacturer of hardware and software that the vendor is an authorized product reseller.
    - Photocopy of a document indicating that the proposed authentication product is listed as finalist of Best Access Control Award and Best Smart Card/Token Award under "The Reader Trust Awards Category" by *SC Magazine Global Awards 2004*
    - Certification from the prospective bidder that the proposed Secure Remote Office Connectivity is a current Microsoft Global ISV Partner of the Year.
16. Certification from Microsoft that the proposed Security Management and Analysis Software product is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner

Only those who meet the above criteria/requirements will be invited in the bidding to be conducted on a later date

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 20, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BICOL REGIONAL TRAINING AND TEACHING HOSPITAL
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Legazpi City
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

We are inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of Office Equipment, Medical Equipment, Drugs and Medicines and Medical Supplies under the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	DRUGS AND MEDICINES
Issuance of bid documents upon payment of P1,000.00	Oct. 25-Nov. 15	Oct. 25-Nov. 15	Oct. 25-Nov. 16	Oct. 25-Nov. 17
Pre-bid conference (BRTTH Conference Hall)	Nov. 03 9:00 AM	Nov. 03 1:30 PM	Nov. 04 9:00 AM	Nov. 05 9:00 AM
Dropping of Bids (BRTTH Conference Hall)	Nov. 17, 2004 10:00 AM	Nov. 17, 2004 1:30 PM	Nov. 18, 2004 9:00 AM	Nov. 18, 2004 9:00 AM
Opening of Bids (Conf. Hall)	10:15 AM	1:45 PM	9:15 AM	9:15 AM
Approved Budget For Contract	P 5,216,000.00	3,072,000.00	P 12,289,800.00	P 6,250,000

RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern the proceedings of the bidding.

The hospital reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to waive any defect or annul the bidding process, and reject bids anytime prior to Award of Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s or any obligations to inform the bidder/s on the ground for the action.

(Sgd.) ESPERANZA R. MENDIOLA, MD.
Chairperson

(PDI – October 14 & 20, 2004)

An ancient

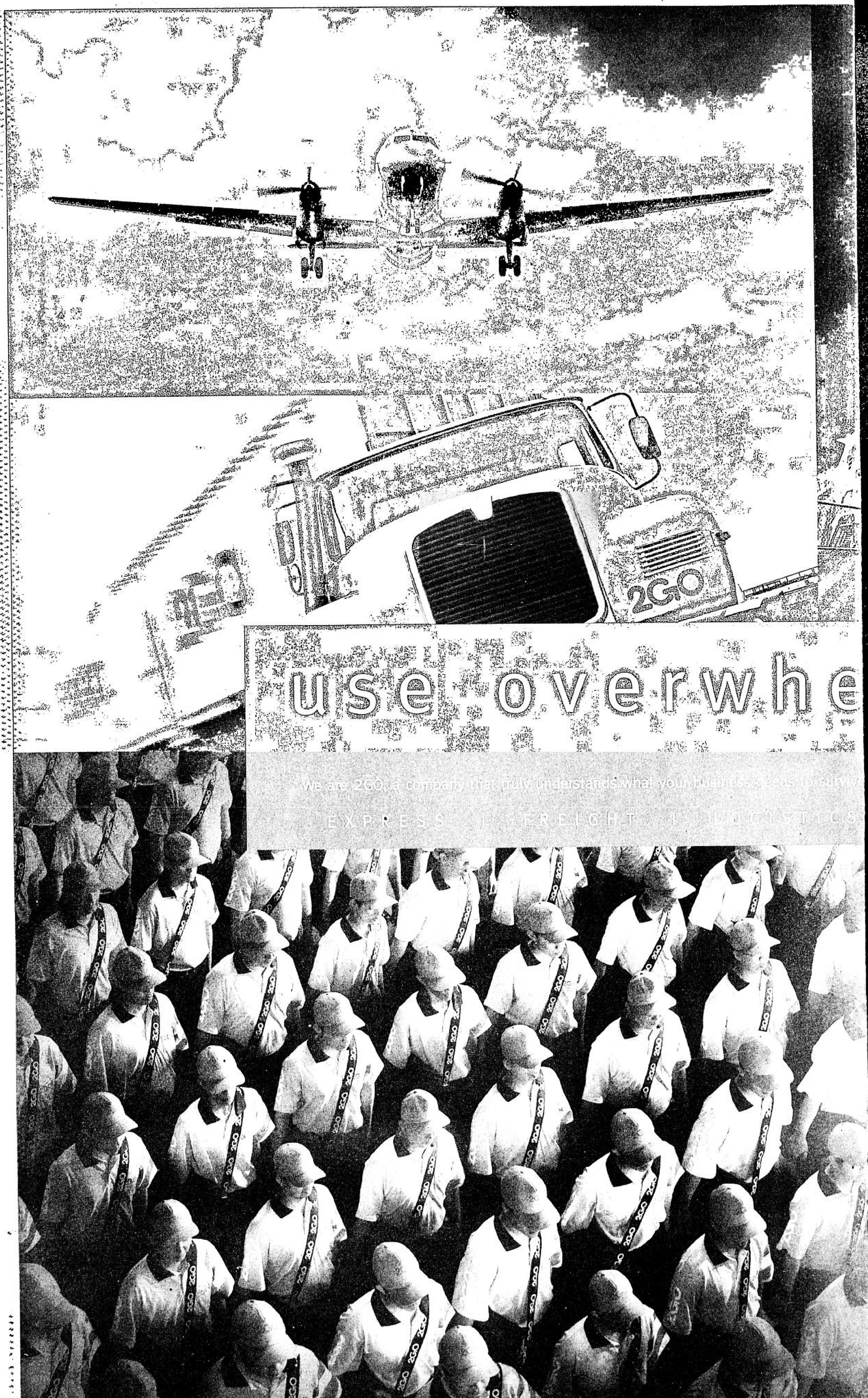
Chinese general

once said

To defeat competition,

you must

○ ○ ○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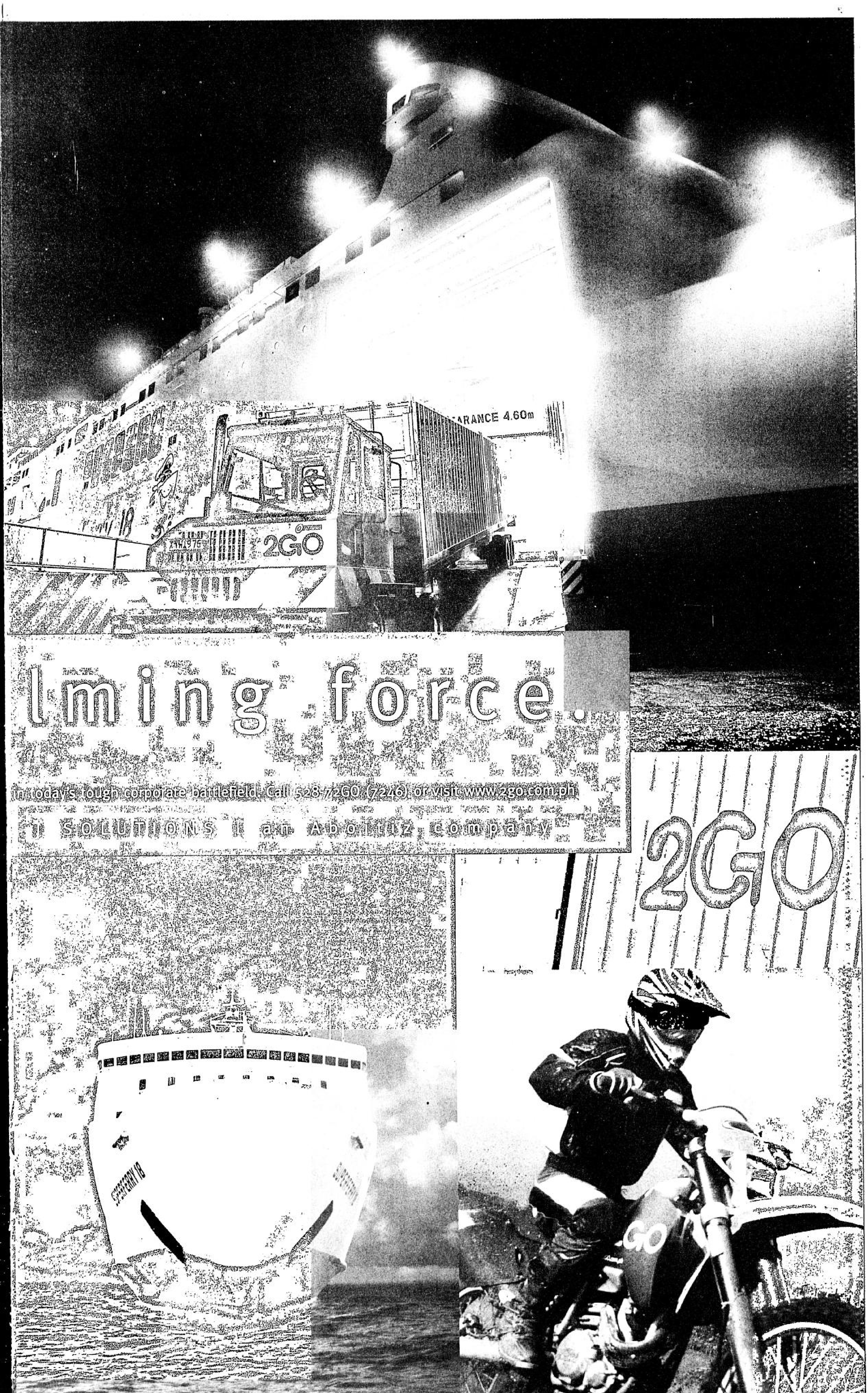
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PRSP holds first GMM after elections

AFTER several months of inactivity, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines held its first general membership meeting Oct. 11 at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

The GMM was attended by members and guests who signified their intention to join and be active in the premier public relations organization in the country.

The PRSP election was held Sept. 17 and the new officers were inducted into office Sept. 22 by Sen. Fred S. Lim at the Senate of the Philippines.

The new officers and directors are Jones T. Campos, president, of Globe Telecom; Joel D. Lacsamana, VP-internal, of Manila Water; Dante M. Velaso, VP-external, of Creative Points International; Lou S. de Guzman, secretary, of CAP Inc.; Angel G. Doble, treasurer, of PNB; Dulce Festin Baybay, internal auditor, of ABS-CBN Foundation; Maloli Espinosa Manalastas, director/PRO, of ABS-CBN; Rocky G. Dimaculangan, director, of Ayala Land; and Rochelle G. Hilario, director, of Asian Terminals.

In his inaugural speech, newly elected PRSP president Campos pledged transparency, professionalism, integrity, relevance and excellence. He also stated that by the leadership of the current board, he hopes that the public relations profession is on track to its "golden years".

For his part, Dante Velasco announced that PRSP is not holding a national PR congress this year. Instead, the Society will launch the Anvil Awards within October. The Anvil Awards is the "Oscars" of the public relations profession. It will be co-chaired by Joel Lacsamana and Dulce Festin Baybay.

PUBLIC RELATIONS LADIES, GENTS

Shown, seated from left, Malou Rosal, formerly of Dusit Hotel; Rizabel Cloma-Santos of PMI; Rita Festin of ADB; Rochelle Hilario, PRSP director, of Asian Terminals; Lou de Guzman of CAP and Knette Fernando of Grepalife. Standing, from left, Joops Kalambakal of ICTSI; Dulce Festin Baybay, PRSP internal auditor, of ABS-CBN Foundation; Malou Espina of Total Philippines Corp.; Fely Rosales of Land Bank and Jones Campos, PRSP president, of Globe Telecom

HAPPINESS IS A PRSP GMM

Shown, seated from left, are Gizelle Camua of Zuellig Pharma, Mandy Navasero of Navasero Communications, Maloli Manalastas, PRSP director/PRO, of ABS-CBN; and Marilen Tronquid-Lagniton of St. Luke's Medical Center. Standing, from left, Angel Doble, PRSP treasurer, of PNB, and Edwin Galvez of Strategic PR.

33 SELECTED students-entrepreneurs from Asian Institute of Management enrolled in Master in Entrepreneurship Batch 7 were sent by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) for an all expense paid Management Training in Yokohama, Japan from Aug. 18 to 31 entitled 'The Program on Entrepreneurship Development for the Philippines (PHED)'. The group leader was Myrla Melad-Bajar, president and CEO of MGM Advertising Agency. The participants were entrepreneurs from other business sectors namely Gerard Recto, William Go, Michielson Luakian, Randy Go, Francisco Gonzalez, Charmaine Chua, Katherine Limpoco, Ma. Elizabeth Legasto, Ruby Abastillas, Leo Cheng, Arthur Andrey, Jan Kierulf, Kristine Lim, Leslie Ong, Shelane Palattao, Jonathan Ramos, Galo Lim, Erlinda Ang, Ma. Ines Que, John Tomas, Jose Mari Tanalgo, Diana Ty, Lainie Ramoso, Laraine Yu, Alan Jarlos, Teresa Enano, Theresa Unson, Julieta Cunanan, Emmanuel de Guia, Tricia Tarriela, Candice Regner and Vincent Garcia.

MTC hosts 3rd Stage of AMETIAP's Teaching Maritime English for Teachers

Magsaysay Training Center is hosting the 3rd Stage of AMETIAP's Teaching for Maritime English Teachers from various maritime training centers and some government agencies in the country.

This will be held on October 18 - 22, 2004 at the Magsaysay Training Center, 6F, Times Plaza Bldg., corner UN & Taft Avenues, Ermita Manila. This will be handled by Ms. Valerie M. Short, AMETIAP director & member. Ms. Short is an experienced trainer in Maritime English and a Consultant-Trainer of International Maritime Organization.

PSTD 30th National Convention
Breakthroughs in Workplace Learning & Performance Improvement
November 10-12, 2004
Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati City

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Track 1 Sharing World Class Practices	Track 2 Growing Leadership & Management Talent	Track 3 Discovering Innovative Approaches	Track 4 Developing HROD Practitioners
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Sharing World Class Practices: The Microsoft Way Loida Sagaran MICROSOFT Philippines, Inc.	Growing our Leaders: Management Development at Del Monte Philippines Ma. Isabel Malferrari Del Monte Philippines, Inc.	Training Augmented by Lessons Experienced by Speakers Dino Santos Energized Training Consultancy	Evaluating Training at the Job Impact Level – The CTP Experience Mario del Castillo Performance Technologies Malaysia Sdn. Bhd
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2D or not 2D: Sony Ericsson mobile gaming goes 3D

RACKING up points by zapping aliens in a mobile game can be a rush, but the excitement goes up several notches when the alien is in all its full-color, earth-shaking glory, leaping right at you from the little screen. Now that's 3D (three-dimensional) gaming.

Once limited to high-end mobile phones and devices, 3D mobile gaming enters a new age via Sony Ericsson's introduction of the new K500i camera phone for the mid-market. Gamers who once hankered for a phone that could function in the entertainment department as well as in multimedia communications and imaging without the hefty price tag will find a real winner in the K500i.

For starters, the K500i is capable of storing 170 2D (two-dimensional) games or 45 3D games. The award-winning Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell® Pandora Tomorrow in 3D from Gameloft and Extreme Air Snowboarding from Sumea can be downloaded from the Sony Ericsson Fun & Downloads site for free. Choose from many other games, whether action/adventure, sports, role-playing games (RPGs), platform or puzzle, on the site or in network operators' portals.

The K500i also gives users a large 1.9-inch TFT (thin film transistor, which helps ensure image clarity even under direct light) display with over 65,000 colors. Just viewing the game in one of the largest mobile screens available today will be a pleasure in itself.

The MultiAction joystick makes navigating and playing games easier. Fast and smooth game play is assured by a graphics platform--Java 2.0 and Mascot Capsule Engine Micro 3D Edition from HI Corp-especially created for fast action-graphics rich mobile applications.

Sony Ericsson
Record
More

A rocking 40-chord polyphonic sound system brings users to audio heaven (not to mention the phone's MP3 player with graphics equalizer, Music DJ application for creating full bodied compositions in four tracks and the new network dependent music download service called PlayNow).

The K500i is also compatible with the Sony Ericsson Gameboard EGB-10 accessory, a gaming console, which further adds to the intense mobile gaming experience of the phone.

Not to be outdone on the imaging side, the phone is equipped with 4x digital zoom camera for still pictures and video clips. Sony Ericsson's QuickShare application also enables images and video to be taken and sent via MMS or email in just a few clicks.

'Katsuo' festival at Nishiki

EDSA Shangri-La, Manila's Nishiki features the smallest but most flavorful type of tuna during its Katsuo (Bonito Fish) Festival from Oct. 20 to 31. Tobiou flies as far as 100 meters, making it difficult to catch. This is why it is considered as one of Japan's most sought-after seafood, popularly enjoyed as *sashimi* and *shioyaki* (grilled with salt). Among the popular ways to prepare *bonito* is dried and shaved into thin flakes called *hanakatsuo*, or as sushi and sashimi. Nishiki's chef Kenzo also prepares bonito *harasu yaki* (grilled with ponzu sauce), *tataki* (medium grilled with garlic and leeks), *mentaiko* (with cod fish roe) and *misoshiro* (bonito miso soup), available for lunch and dinner. Nishiki is at the mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call 634-7373 or 633-8888 locals 2738/2739.

1st confab of campus ministries

MSGR. Vicente D. Bauson, the Archdiocesan Campus Ministry director and chief operating officer of the First National Convention of Campus Ministries from Oct. 20 to 22 at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza, feels that the heart of any campus ministry is to be able to foster and sustain dynamic and creative communities of faith on campus. With the theme "Transforming Schools Into Faith Communities", the convention aims to initiate a movement that shares the same vision of providing an alternative environment to the students and other campus sectors by transforming schools into faith communities and to create a networking facilitative to the growth and sustainability of this movement. Initiated by the Campus Ministry of the Archdiocese of Manila and the University of Santo Tomas, the two-and-a-half-day convention will feature internationally known speakers and personages. For convention information, call the Campus Ministry secretariat at 735-3390 or 736-6589.

Public librarians seminar-workshop

SOME 400 to 500 public librarians from the provinces, cities, municipalities, and *barangays* all over the Philippines will attend the National Seminar Workshop on "Issues and Trends of Philippine Public Librarianship" at the National Library Auditorium from Oct. 20 to 23. Held annually, the seminar-workshop lines up a battery of speakers on Oct. 20 and 21 with Undersecretary Fortunato T. de la Peña of DOST giving the keynote address. On Oct. 22, National Library Director and key officials will hold a meeting with member-libraries of the Public Libraries Information Network (Publin). Oct. 23 is reserved for the annual book allocations of the National Library to selected public libraries.

RP hosts Asian internal auditors' meet

THE PHILIPPINES will host the 5th Annual Convention of the Asian Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditors from Oct. 20 to 22 in Shangri-la Mactan, Cebu. This is the first time that the region's top internal audit organization chose the country as venue for its annual meet. All audit and audit-related practitioners are invited to attend the conference, with its theme, "Striking A Balance", which promises to have more than 15 speakers from Asia handling over 18 audit-related topics. The convention is a collaboration of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines (IIA-P), Information Systems Audit and Control Association (Isaca), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (Acfe) and the Association of Government Internal Auditors (Agia). For more details, look for Sunshine at the IIAP Secretariat at 812-2754 or 813-2553.

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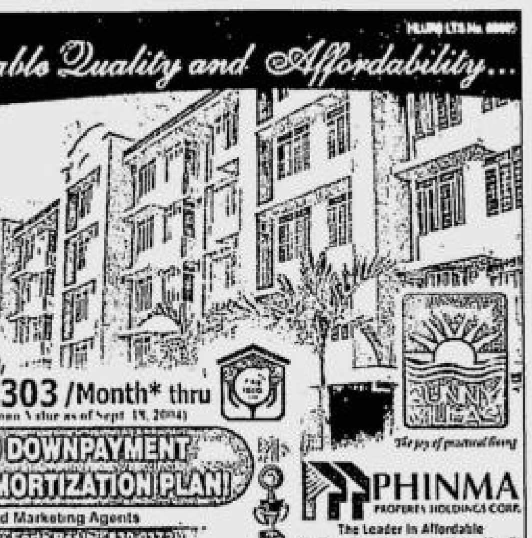
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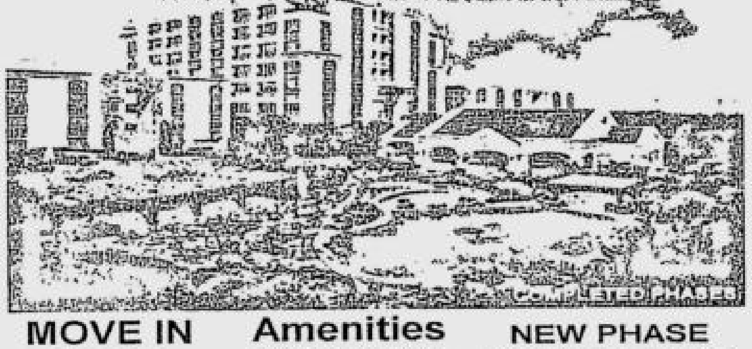

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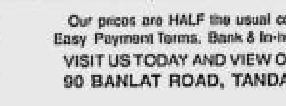

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Luxurious Low 500T-12M Furn 9415641/0927-3925928

•SIKATUNA VIL #81 Mahiyain• 9210255 ; 9219967 ; 9220547

Valencia Hills 1BR 634-1212

SAN JUAN

CORTIJOS P5.5M 671-4421

LOT

MAKATI

McKinley Hills
Global City P10M 634-1212 • 0917-5213838

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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The Metro Homes Division of:
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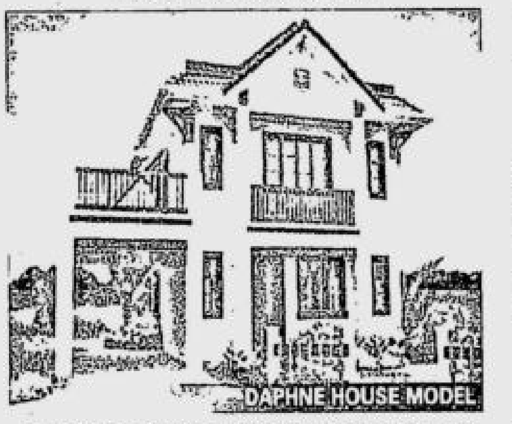

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TROPICS
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LOT

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HILLSBOROUGH P11,500/M² NICE LOCATION 671-4421

PASIG

Rosario 1500 / 3000m² 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE LOT QC ARCADIA 804m² Call Cecile 872-5204 to 05

Nr UP 200sq 7T 1sm 6453731

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★
240m-up 3,300/m² 125T D/P 6T Mo Best Loc nr Taal Vista 6609372

OTHER AREAS

•TAGAYTAY VILLAS•
THE RIDGE 3M to 5M w/ Golf & Club Membership 536-1609 / 0917-5022722

LOT

LAGUNA

CABUYAO
Multi-Land 100 sqm Lots @ P3,000/sqm available on Installment Plan at P5,398. 15 /Mo. Also available 32 sqm lots P3,300/sqm.
For more info Call Tess at 8160997 or 09179166285

Palo Alto Calamba 3Has Res. Lot P700 / SQM T8425621

FACTORY/WHSE

PASIG TAGIG AREA
LA7439m² FA3000m²
FULLY FENCED W/H2OTANK C6 ACCESS 0917-6251467 632-0129, 656-0360, 687-7325

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2.5Hec Beach Property 110M Frontage Developed Concrete Fence Ideal for Resort Retirement Homes 0917-8907654 • Brokers Ok

LIAN BEACH 5000m² 7158833

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Is in need for
QUALITY ASSURANCE II DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Qualifications:
Has at least 5 years extensive exposure/technical knowledge in the Quality Assurance for UPS Product, process control, and evaluation of product, dealing with customer claims for damage, purchase and quality control of materials. Must have hands-on experience on various related QA device/ equipment.

ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK NIHONGO.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2x2 recent picture and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 225, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² IDEAL FOR SPA GYM CALL CENTER 9289541 / 7361925

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 7226950-51 2-4br 8T&up

PHILAM HOMES FRONT EDSA Bldg 2 UNIT 7 9289541 7361925

APARTMENT

MANILA

Apartment 4500-15000 Bedspace 1500 Ajie Joy 5610960 09204136412

GOV FORBES APT UP/DOWN CALL OFF HRS 5233907

QUEZON CITY

w/ Grg scnd 8,9,10,11T Proj8 9252160

PROJ.4 2BR 439-0108 Nick

FOR LEASE

OFF. SPACE 25 & 30 SQM 4 LEASE COR ADRIATICO & P. FAURA STS CALL OFF HRS 5233907

WANTED TO LEASE

Wants to Rent or Rent to Own Property in Kamuning/Sct. Area 1000m² Mrs C 0917-6282808

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

GUARDED PUBLIC STORAGE USING CONTAINER VANS WITH IN PORT ZONE DELPAN MANILA TELEFAX 2459740/2476006

ROOM & BOARD

BF PQUE 8257524/8275345

Chin. Gen area 7118679

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BEDSPACE

Ladies only, Nr Zapote Mktl P2,500 0920-9112912

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE 8181696/7586

Cubao 7226950-51 200-300m² 35T&up

FOR RENT COML w/Full Bath In Kamagong Mkt ASAP 8991883 / 0921-4918188

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

ASIALINK & GLOBAL DOMINION Doctors, Business, Seaman, OFW OR/CR, Allotte, Beauty, Real Estate, Salary Loan, No Collateral 9623736 / 09176079852

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Ortigas 50sq.m 09178454534

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Burgundy Katipunan fronting Ateneo 2BR furn rent19Tneg 927-4517 • 0917-7940707

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Brokers Review 4382966

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zamboanga Sibugay
Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Titay

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

ZSNCB-2004-015-004

October 20, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the IBRD-International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

   Construction of 1 unit-6CL (Two Storey) School Building in Titay Central Elementary School, Brgy. Poblacion, Titay, ZS
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Municipal Engineers Office with address at Brgy. Poblacion of Titay, Zamboanga Sibugay for a non refundable fee of Php 2,500.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee. Municipality of Titay on or before ***10:00 a.m., November 23, 2004*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For clarification, a Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on 10:00 a.m., November 10, 2004 at the Municipal Hall Building, Titay, Zamboanga Sibugay.

(Sgd.) **ROSELLER C. TUMAMUT, Sr.**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct 20, 2004)

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

ISUZU

Passenger Van (02)-9256493 0917-3735739 P600OTH

VOLKSWAGON

86 Volvo Slivr SWgon 250T 6133928

OTHER CAR BRANDS

CHEVROLET ASTRO VAN ORIGINAL U.S. YR-99 AUTOMATIC GAS P380K (neg) 2426986 (MYLENE) 0921-2728741(BABY)

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Delica Vanette Trooper Terrano Town-Lite Ace Rvr Elf Canter etc Finance T-in 9120647 ; 09178342020

MOTORCYCLE

79Honda 2500cc 50T 0920-7876092

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 631-3496 0919-3220871

BENZ Jaguar Lincoln 6825922

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

NISSAN Urvan 0917-5444721

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

ABC RENT A CAR
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CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T• New Compit Sr Imptd 7767507

BUY/SELL

CAP/PRUD PLANS Gle 0917-7939632

LOOKING FOR SELLER OF: EEL FINGERLINGS UP TO 2M HEADS/WK CALL MYLENE 2426986 09198076954

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

OTHER EQUIPMENT

We sell: Wheelchair, commodechair, crutches, walkr, quadcne, etc. Mde 2 ordr: prosthesis, braces T-4125613 / 4133506

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS 6830677 ; 09178540472

ROTTWEILER PUPS 5251916

ROTTWEILER PUPS 09175023026

WANTED TO BUY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
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& Other Swiss Watches
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SWISS WATCHES
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SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Alberto G. Sarte has been settled thru execution of the Affidavit of Self-Adjudication as per Doc # 431 Page No. 97 Book No. X Series of 2004 Before Atty. Madeline B. Mendoza

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A team of Entrepreneurs will be visiting Naga City & Makati to introduce an Int'l Business model that's expanding fast. If interested text @ 0927-5127468.

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Beng Black 0918-5458311

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631-3496 • 0919-3220871

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

PROMO GIRLS FOR CAVITE BATANGAS & BULACAN AREAS At least 5'2" good looking 527-1565 527-6418 / 09178730929

NANNY
- Must have an existing US Visa
- 28 years old above
- Caregiver or Nursing graduate

Call 912-4323

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Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8922818

CAREGIVER T-5280747

Got a Phone? Earn up to P30,000/mo. Flexible Hrs w/Travel Opp. 8927828

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
"AMENDED"

The Bureau of Customs through the Bids and Awards Committee invites local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid who are:

1. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship;
2. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
3. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
4. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e. a group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%); or
5. Cooperative duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

The local bidders for **Lot A to F** should have a DTI Accreditation Certificate of a minimum **"5 Star Data Processing Equipment Rating"** for the current year.

The manufacturer of the brand of equipment being proposed for all the lots must have an ISO Certification.

The bid shall be on a **per lot basis.** Any bid for any particular lot with incomplete proposal shall be rejected outright.

Lot	Quantity	Item Package	Approved Budget (In pesos)
A	400	Branded New Desktop Computers (Workstation)	26,000,000.00
B	100	Branded New Desktop Computers (High End)	7,500,000.00
C	10	Branded New Mobile Computers (10.6" LCD)	1,400,000.00
D	10	Branded New Mobile Computers (12.1" LCD)	1,400,000.00
E	2	Branded New Computer Servers (Back-up)	5,500,000.00
F	6	Branded New Computer Servers (Email)	4,800,000.00
G	2 3 3 3 10	4-Port Ethernet (Replacement part for Cisco 3600) 4-Port ASYN/SYN (Replacement part for CISCO 2600) 8-Port ASYN/SYN (Replacement part for Cisco 3600) Routers 10/100 Switch	360,000.00 234,000.00 432,000.00 540,000.00 300,000.00
H	4 500	UPS - 10KVA UPS 500VA	1,200,000.00 3,000,000.00
I	4 4	APC Symetra Power Module APC Symetra Battery Pack	500,000.00 100,000.00
J	75 31 23 4	Dot Matrix Printer Desk Jet Printer Laser Jet Printer Laser Jet Printer (Colored)	1,125,000.00 403,000.00 736,000.00 520,000.00
K	1	Hardware-based Firewall	1,600,000.00
L	3	Projector	600,000.00
M	2 3 1	3HP Window Type Aircon 3HP Split Type Aircon 3 Tonner Split Type	80,000.00 180,000.00 100,000.00
N	1 3	165 KVA Generator 75KVA Generator	1,700,000.00 2,600,000.00
		TOTAL	62,910,000.00

Approved budget for the total contract: PhP 62,910,000.00 sourced from the BOC approved budget for 2003.

The prospective bidder may submit its Letter of Intent and buy Bid document during office hours on October 20-21, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one tenth of one percent (.001) of the approved budget for each lot at BAC Secretariat, General Services Division, Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Manila. Look for Ms. Racquel De Jesus, designated BAC Secretariat.

Criteria for eligibility check and evaluation of bids shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern the eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and awarding of contract.

The pre-bid conference for **Lot M to N** shall be held on October 22, 2004, 9:00 am-11:00 am at Multi-Purpose Room, 3rd Floor, CRIC Bldg., Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Manila. The pre-bid conference for **Lot A to L** shall be held at the same date and place at 1:00 pm.

The envelopes for Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Bid for Lot A to L shall be submitted to the BAC Secretariat on November 4, 2004 at 9:00 am on Multi-Purpose Room, 3rd Floor, CRIC Bldg., Bureau of Customs, Port Area, Manila. Opening of bids shall be on the same date and place at 9:30 am. For **Lot M to N**, all above-mentioned envelopes shall be submitted on November 5, 2004 at same place at 9:00 am. Opening of bids shall be on same date and place at 9:30 am. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

BOC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

BOC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) Atty. ROBERTO D. GEOTINA
Deputy Commissioner, IAG
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 20, 2004)

Dumaguete City Water District
GROUND FLOOR, MASONIC TEMPLE, NORTH ROAD
DUMAGUETE CITY, ☎ 422-6961; 225-5016

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Project Meter Reading, Billing and Collection System Requirements
Estimated Cost P 1,300,000.00

Scope of Work:
1. Provide thirteen (13) units of computerized meter reading hardware, complete with back up card mobile printer and pouch bag;
2. Provide 1,000 rolls of compatible paper (thermal, etc.) for the computerized meter reading hardware and printer.
3. Systems development.

System Requirements:
1. Should be able to perform On-site Meter Reading, On-site Billing and On-site Issuance of Disconnection Notice
2. Should be light compact equipment.
3. Should be able to have a minimum of 400 consumers per reading.
4. Should be able to generate Management Report for daily, monthly or annual transactions.
5. Should be compatible to the present DCWD Billing and Collection Program.

Hardware Specifications:

Reader
1. Rugged light, water resistant and long operating life.
2. Shock and vibration resistant, screen provided with protector to prevent scratching
3. 32 MB memory which can accommodate more than 50,000 consumer readings
4. 128 MB MMC back up memory card to ensure non-lost of data.
5. Colored and high resolution
6. Comes with water proof pouch and strap to ensure proper care and easy handling
7. Screen can accommodate up to 13 lines of information.
8. GIS/AM/FM mapping compatibility.
9. Could create Word, Excel, PowerPoint presentation.
10. Playback movie, MP3, Voice memo.
11. Browse the internet, send and receive e-mails, send and receive text (SMS)
12. Optional car or truck charger.
13. Optional external keyboard.
14. Optional bar code reader.
15. Optional cell phone.
16. Optional digital camera
17. Network capabilities, infrared, bluetooth, Wi-Fi (Widely Fidelity)

Printer
1. 32 bit CPU
2. 2000 m Ah LiOn battery
3. USB Hot Sync interface
4. Option for USB communication between PDA device and PP-55
5. Integrated bar code and magnetic card reader
6. Smart card reader – option
7. Possibility for communication to external USB Master and Slave devices
8. Charging the PDA device while charging the printer.
9. Will be compatible with all present PDA

Bid forms will be made available starting October 13, 2004 upon payment of a non-refundable cost of P400.00. Submission of eligibility requirement shall be on October 28, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. after which a pre bid conference will be held at DCWD Board Room

Only suppliers who are pre-qualified will be allowed to submit their bids. Deadline for the submission of bids to qualified bidders will be on November 10, 2004.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award to any bidder whose bid is considered the lowest calculated responsive bid.

(Sgd.) NESTOR O. DAQUIL
Bids and Award Committee
Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ESPERATO A. DICEN
General Manager

(PDI – October 13 & 20, 2004)

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOBMarket ONLINE
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

DKT Philippines, Inc., a non-government, non-profit and non-stock organization involved in the sales and distribution of contraceptive products is in need of the following individuals for:

Administrative Assistant

The administrative assistant will be tasked to assist in the management of daily departmental operations.

Job Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree
- Knowledge of administrative system and operations.
- Effective oral and written communication skills.
- Proficient in computer programs:
- Ability to multi-task and cope with pressure.
- Extremely organized and works with full attention to details.

Franchise Operations Manager

The Franchise Operations Manager will be responsible for the development, operation, and expansion of a franchise undertaking in the Philippines. He/She will manage this effort within a department consisting of professionals engaged in collaborative efforts with government units, industrial entities, health service providers, and non-governmental organizations.

Job Requirements:

The successful candidate will be a results-oriented individual with proven entrepreneurial, management, and leadership skills. He/She will be a strategic thinker, a change agent, and a team player with a hands-on approach to work that will contribute to high levels of achievement within the organization. He/She must have exceptional proven skills in written and oral communications, public speaking and presentations, problem solving and analysis, and decision-making.

The candidate must meet the following minimum requirements:
- College Degree in Business Management or equivalent. A Master's Degree is an added advantage.
- Experience in franchise operation is a must.
- A track record of high achievement.
- Highly organized, systematic, and hands-on work ethic.
- Proficient in computer programs.

Applicants can look forward to an industry competitive package. Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume to:

Human Resources Department
DKT Philippines, Inc.
Suite 801, The Linden Suites
37 San Miguel Avenue, Otigas Pasig City
or
E-mail: hrd@frenzy.com.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development - V
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
811-7802 loc. 36 • 473-8936; 473-2334

October 12, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders who are qualified to participate in the following projects:
   a. *Project:* Procurement of Security Services (20 Guards) for Calendar Year 2005
   Approved Budget for the Contract: TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,400,000.00)
   Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to November 18, 2004
   Pre-Bid Conference: November 18, 2004 9:00AM BMC Auditorium
   Bid Opening: December 2, 2004 9:00 AM, BMC Auditorium
   b. *Project:* Procurement of Janitorial Services (35 Janitors including supplies/materials) for Calendar Year 2005
   Approved Budget for the Contract: FIVE MILLION PESOS (PhP5,000,000.00)
   Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to November 18, 2004
   Pre-Bid Conference: November 18, 2004 2:00 PM, BMC Auditorium
   Bid Opening: December 2, 2004 9:00 AM BMC Auditorium
   c *Project:* Procurement of Textile Materials
   Approved Budget for the Contract: SIX HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS (Php696,650.00)
   Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to December 3, 2004
   Bid Opening: December 7, 2004 9.00 AM BMC Auditorium
   d *Project:* Procurement of Various Office Equipments
   Approved Budget for the Contract: SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SIX THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 626,000.00)
   Release of Bid Documents: October 18 to December 3, 2004
   Bid Opening: December 9, 2004 9:00 AM BMC Auditorium
2. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process of eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the INstruction to Bidders. In accordancw with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
3. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further Information should contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City, Telephone No. 473-2334; 473-89-36, from 8:00 a.m. TO 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents per project may be purchased by interested Bidders, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00), and submission of a written application to the following address

   Dr. RODOLFO C. URSUA
   Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
   Bicol Medical Center
   Naga City

5. Bids must be delivered to the above address on the specified date and time per project. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms
   a) Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check.
   Bank draft, or irrevocable letter of credit - One Percent (1%)
   b) Bank Guarantee - One & A Half Percent (1-1/2%)
   c) GSIS Surety Bond - Two & A Half Percent (2-1/2%)
6. The BMC reserves, the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of the Award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder of Bidders.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA
Medical Specialist II and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 26, 2004)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR). The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as executing agency of the PAREMAR intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this invitation for Application to Pre-qualify and to Bid is issued

PRRC and the City of Manila as the Implementing Agency of the contract are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for pre-qualification and bid for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description	Scope of Works
Muelle dela Industria Linear Park Project (EPA-LPP-15)	10,021.87 sq.m.	Muelle dela Industria Rd., Binondo, Manila	180 Calendar Days	Community Park and Promenade	a. Demolition b. Hauling/Disposal of Refuse Materials c. Backfill and Compaction d. Concrete Works e. Site Improvements f Supply/Installation of Park Elements g. Painting Works h. Electrical Works i. Drainage and Plumbing Works

Interested contractors are required to submit a Letter of Intent and secure a complete set of pre-qualification and bid documents from **November 4, 2004 to November 10, 2004** at the **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission**, 2/F, MWSS Eng'g Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City, Tel. Nos : 433-3444 and 433-3446. Fax No : 296-6449. E-mail: prrc@tri isys.com upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 13,400.00).

Congregation for Site Inspection shall be at the Flagship Projects Management Office of the City of Manila, Museo de Manila, T.M. Kalaw St., Cor. Roxas Boulevard, Manila on November 19, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on the same day at 3:00 p.m. at the PRRC Conference Room

The accomplished pre-qualification and bid documents shall be submitted to the **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission** in two (2) separate sealed envelopes containing three (3) copies each of the pre-qualification and bid documents on or before **12:00 NN, December 20, 2004**. The date of bid opening shall be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with the pre-qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with the corresponding contract amount. The contractor shall be prequalified based on their financial capacity, technical capability and work experience. The list of other required documents for submission is included in the pre-qualification documents.

The criteria for Pre-qualification, Bid Evaluation, Award of Contract and Post-qualification shall be governed by the ADB Guidelines For Procurement of Civil Works and R.A. No. 9184

The PRRC Inter-Agency Bid and Award Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which shall be the most advantageous to the Government. The decision of the PRRC Inter-Agency BAC shall be final and binding upon approval of the PRRC Board of Commissioners and ADB.

For further information, please contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Amelita V. Gamay at Tel. Nos. 433-3447 and 920-5234

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

(Sgd.) DEOGRACIAS J. TABLAN, Jr.
City Gov't Dept Head III and
OIC, Flagship Projects

(PDI - Oct 20 & 27, 2004)

OBITUARIES

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Mortuary
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Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ERLINDA LO ALIPIO

(wife of Ruben Tan Alipio)

who peacefully joined her Creator
last October 7, 2004

Would like to express our deepest gratitude to our relatives, friends, staff and business associates who offered prayers, masses, message of sympathy, sent flowers, mass cards or donations, spent their precious time with us, attended the funeral and in many countless ways showed us their genuine care and support in our time of bereavement.

Our most heartfelt appreciation. Please continue to remember my beloved wife through your prayers.

MAGDALENA ZAPATA CASTILLO

President and Chairman of the Board
Rural Bank of Bagabag (N.V.), Inc.

Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 16, 2004 at the age of 83.

Her loving husband **Capt. Jose P. Castillo, MM** (†), children **Victor & Lita, Douglas & Rebecca, Vincent & Reggie, Pura & Jaime Romero**; grandchildren **Joe Vincent, Jonathan, Jeffrey & Cherrylyn, Jennifer & Paul Pingul, Angela & Edwin Espinosa, Barbara & Mark Mazzela, Mark, David, Veronica, Valerie, Regina Joelle, Genevieve, Adelle, Camille**; sister **Constantina**; brothers **Antonio, Jose, Susano, Teofilo** (†), **Eduardo** (†), **Patricio Jr.** (†), **Miguel** (†); great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends request everyone to join in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her family residence in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 23, 2004 at the Old Cemetery, Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, after the 8:00 a.m. Necrological Mass.

JOSE GARCIA ENRIQUEZ

of Dinalupihan, Bataan

Peacefully joined his Creator
and his loving wife Ines Estanislao
on October 17, 2004 at the age of 94.

He shall be missed dearly by his loving children **Totoy** and **Nora**, **Mel** and **Josue**, **Pat** and **Noel**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at Chapel-12-A of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 9:30 Mass in the morning of October 22, 2004.

CEASAR G. BAGAPURO

(Ret) WPD Traffic Police Officer
of Cadiz, Negros Oriental
and Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 16, 2004
at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife **Leoncia (Onsing)**; loving children **Joy & JB Yango**, **Lt. Col. Dan & Baby Santos**, **Rey & Jiji Bautista**, **Gay**, **Jun & Imee Ramirez**, **& Lee**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Yango residence, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 23, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Cuyapo Catholic Church.

Col. JOSE GIANAN IGNACIO

PMA Class '45, Retired PA

February 4, 1922 - October 15, 2004

Died in Glendale, CA, U.S.A.

Survived by his wife: **Fe Guerrero Ignacio.**

Children: **Susie** and son-in-law **Honesto Morelos, Edwin** and daughter-in-law **Elsa Reyes, Cherrie** and son-in-law **Marito Platon,** daughter **Lourdes (Bundle)**, son **Jose Raymond** and daughter-in-law **Frances Makil.**

Grandchildren: **Dennis** and wife **Myla, Francis** and wife **Jenny, Iya; Bam, Tanya, B-Anne, Chummy; Toni** and husband **Dennis, Patti, Jennie Jo; Joshua;** and **Maxine.**

Great grandchildren: **Isabella, Matthew,** and **Bea.**

Brothers, sisters and in-laws: **Nestor** (†) and **Luz Escueta, Lily** and **Vicente Camacho, Gloria** and **Medar Luyon** (†), **Camille** and **Eric Siy, Dominador** and **Lucy Gabrillo, Clemente, Jr.** and **Mariter, Antonia** (†) and **Pio Guerrero, Carmen, Dennis** and **Salvacion Publico, Erlinda** and **Precioso Gabrillo, Mariano** and **Carmen Balili,** and **Monsignor Simon Peter.**

Funeral Services: October 17-18, 2004 at Cabot and Sons, Pasadena, CA, U.S.A.; Funeral Mass and Rites: October 19, 2004 at St. Dominic's Parish Church, Los Angeles, CA, U.S.A.

Cremation and Interment will be on October 20, 2004 at Forest Lawn, Glendale, CA, U.S.A.

Chinese Pavilion to be built at The Heritage Park

THE HERITAGE Park, the country's premier memorial service provider leads the way in the industry again following its recent groundbreaking ceremonies of its much-awaited Pavilion project.

Present during the event were Rosehills Memorial Management (Phils) Inc chair and president Jack Kidwiler, Taguig's First Lady Kaye Tiñga, outgoing Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) chair Florencio Padernal, incoming BCDA chair Filadelfo Roxas Jr and Heritage Park Management Corp president Anthony Woo. Serving as emcee for the event was renowned celebrity and TV talk show host, Johnny Litton.

Estimated to be completed in six months, the multi-million peso Pavilion shall be located in an elevated section of the Park formerly known as Terrasoleum 1B. This strategically located area possesses a commanding view of the Park and when completed, shall be the focal point for serving the memorialization needs of the Park's Filipino-Chinese clientele.

The Heritage Park's Pavilion promises to be an architectural marvel incorporating many features of classical Buddhist building design. This will include a balanced and symmetrical layout, an elaborately curved roof design, ornate architectural detail, and a pagoda-like pavilion, which will serve as the building's main structure.

But the architectural beauty of the exterior of The Heritage Park's Pavilion only tells half the story. Located within will be Cremation Plots and Stupa Garden Lots. "Stupas" are dome-shaped monuments used traditionally by Buddhists to house relics or cremated remains.

The Entrance Hall of the Pavilion will be designed and patterned after a temple gate and shall serve as the main foyer. Inside will be spacious Columbarium Halls where individual and companion niches for urns as well as full-body crypts can be housed. The structure will also feature an open Courtyard, which shall be provided with incense vases and burning receptacles for traditional rites and practices.

The four corners of the building complex will house four private Pavilions. Envisioned to be the highest in value in the whole structure, these private pavilions will have provisions for double (full-body) crypts and columbarium niches.

To address the needs of those planning to hold large ceremonial functions within the building, the 200 square meter octagonal Main Pavilion at the center of the structure is guaranteed to answer their needs. However, much smaller functions could also be addressed in the more modestly sized multi-purpose hall called the Tea House.

Water features and elegant landscaping shall complete the overall Chinese-Buddhist character of The Heritage Park's Pavilion and is sure to please even those with the most discriminating oriental tastes.

Located in Fort Bonifacio, The Heritage Park is 5 minutes away from the Manila Golf Club and Manila Polo Club. It is accessible from three major thoroughfares, Edsa, via McKinley Road, South Superhighway via Lawton Avenue and Circumferential Road 5 (C5). Heritage Park is also a stone's throw away from the Global City and the Makati Commercial District.

CLASSIFIEDS

PMAP thanks PDI for partnership
PDI's Jesse Rebustillo receives certificate of appreciation from PMAP Vice President and Conference Chairperson Grace Zata. The awarding was in recognition of the contributions of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to the success of the recently held 41st PMAP Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines last September 29 to October 1 in Baguio City.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE 1
Lapu-Lapu City
Tel. nos. 3400-590, 3400-594, 3400591; Telefax no 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-MEZ 1 invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Contract SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT OF PEZA at the Cebu Ecozones located in Lapu-lapu City & Balamban, Cebu.
2. The Approved Budget for the Contract is P 7,054,683.72 part of Cebu Ecozones Operating Budget.
3. Duration of the Contract is twelve (12) months from the date of the contract.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to interested Bidders, juridical or individual, who meet the following requirements:
   a. Must be PADPAO accredited but need not be PEZA accredited.
   b. No existing contract with any locator in any ECOZONE in Cebu.
   c. Must have existing security guards available for immediate placement as required in the contract.
5. Application for Eligibility, Bid Documents and forms will be available for issuance starting October 20, 2004 to October 27, 2004 from MEZ I BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I Lapu-lapu City upon submission of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.
6. Pre-Bid conference is schedule at 2 P.M. October 29, 2004 at the Conference Room PEZA Administration Bldg., MEZ I.
7. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Eligibility and Bid Documents in three (3) separate envelopes marked as such ((1) First Envelope – Eligibility Documents Envelope, (2) Second Envelope – Bid Envelope – Technical Proposal; (3) Third – Bid Envelope – Financial Proposal) will be at 2.00 P.M., Nov. 12, 2004, the bidding date at the same venue.
8. The PEZA MEZ I BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that they may incur in the preparation of the eligibility requirements of the bids and to accept the bid advantageous to the Government. The provision of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding process.

(Sgd.) BAC, MEZ I
BELENIA B. LOBITAÑA

(PDI–Oct. 20 & 27, 2004)

More Classified Ads on B6.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-011B

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 11, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
AI	3 SETS	DISCONNECT SWITCH	3LAG-04-277	P 2,940,000.00
A2	120 DRUMS	TRANSFORMER OIL	CAV-04-226	P 4,440,000.00
A3	1 SET	THERMAL SCANNER, INFRARED	3PSMDS-04-134	P 7,000,000.00
A4	1 LOT	STEEL CROSSARM FOR 69KV	3SL-04-038	P 7,191,565.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1 to A4 will be held on October 28, 2004; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, S. O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting October 21, 2004. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), TransCo-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing, rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the Approved Budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) G. R. LISTANO
CHAIRMAN BAC
SL O&M

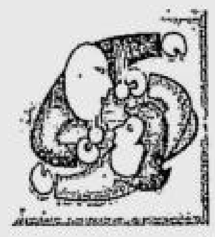
(PDI - Oct. 20, 2004)

PEOPLE at WORK
Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

After building stars, director's new goal is to help build a nation

By JR Bustamante

CAREER TALES



EVERYONE tells her that she is chasing an impossible dream, but that does not discourage this strong-willed lady from pursuing her mission of character building in a nation guided by wrong moral values. Heidi Sison, or fondly known as "Direk Heidi," is the founding chairman of Character Building Foundation, Inc. (CBFI). She believes that positive character of honesty, love, hard work and trust are the foundations of a strong nation. "Change will start from within each individual and eventually project itself into a transformed nation. We hope that this consciousness will spread to each Filipino. When that happens, we will become the most prosperous nation," proclaims Sison.

Character building

CBFI is a non-stock, non-profit organization that advocates strong positive Filipino character as the foundation of a progressive nation through education. It was formed by a group of professionals from the public and private sectors, concerned with the Filipino's inner potential to aid in the nation's growth. The foundation aims to promote positive Filipino values for nation building through various projects such as "teledramas," painting contests, children's art making contests, roundtable discussions, seminars, open community plaza storytelling, and other forms of communication.

"Character is what you do when no one is looking at you" is Sison's simple definition of human character. With her work in the foundation, she has taken it upon herself to work hard for an exhausting, thankless job, which would show results, if at all, only after a long time. But, Sison is a woman that has been through it all and seen it all and now, she feels that it is time to give back. She feels she has been gifted with talent, which she believes should be utilized for the good of the nation. Through her craft, she leads people to the kind of Filipino we ought to be—hopeful, committed and visionary. Her tool in achieving this is media. In the span of her career, she never lost sight of the fact that media has a mission to fulfill.

One of the most competent, highly educated directors in local TV, Sison is a legend in the world of entertainment having directed long-running hits such as "Seeing Stars with Joe Quirino," "Student Canteen," "Flor De Luna" and many others. A notable trademark of her directorial skills is her one-take shoots. "I always get my scene on the first take to capture the spontaneity and avoid unnecessary production expenses" claims this no-nonsense, practical lady. Her style is straightforward and that is why she has gained so much respect from the industry: from her producers to her celebrity talents who know that professionalism is a must if you will work under her. Her cast knows better than to neglect studying their lines before a take. She has this reputation of sending a person packing if it is apparent that a talent is not prepared and is the cause for time delay.

Track record

Her list of directorial accomplishments is so extensive and varied that the following is only partial: musical shows such as "Carina," "Nelda at the Hilton," "It's Me, Genasky"; movie for television such as "Lihim, Isang Landas, Isang Bansa"; special events such as "First International Fil Festival," "Manglapus, the Artist," "Alay sa Pangulo"; beauty pageants such as "Mutya ng Pilipinas '81," "Miss Asia Quest '81"; documentaries such as "The Life and Death of John F. Kennedy, Bukid Bitayin"; "A Doctor and a Gentleman"; game shows such as "Paligsahan sa Dos," "Tic-Tac-Toe," "Halo-Halo Special"; special assignments such as "Damayan," Tele-Aralan," "Puerto Real Evenings"; Talk Show "Eyewitness" and a radio show "Direk Heidi." During her twenties, she was already labeled a queen of noontime shows.

Values-oriented projects

Sison has many values-oriented projects up her sleeve but she needs a lot of support to pursue this. She plans to revive her talk show "Eyewitness," which focuses on the good side of celebrities and personalities, and take her ongoing "Mga Kuwento ni Direk Heidi" public storytelling plays to the next level.

When it comes to creativity, this woman has an endless supply, but admittedly, she falls short in the marketing and financial aspect of the projects. She prays that one day she will get the support she needs to pursue all her projects for building a new nation. "I cannot do everything but I can do something." She believes that the time to act is now. "These are the times that shape the character of a person. Today, we have the opportunities to create statesmen. Positive change must be permanent, not cosmetic."

SISON RYAN LIM

How can we sell more of our stuff?

DEAR WW: I'm feeling that our product isn't selling like it should be selling. We've tried everything to boost sales and nothing works. Any suggestions?

No Go

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Your e-mail reminded me of Tony Alleyne. He tried to sell his apartment for $2 million. Why so pricey? Alleyne spent 10 years creating a detailed model of the "Star Trek" starship Enterprise. It has a life-sized transporter control, a gigantic warp core drive, an infinity mirror and voice-activated lighting.

Needless to say the apartment appealed to a limited number of buyers. Unfortunately, many of us are as myopic as Mr. Alleyne and needlessly limit the market for our products. I've listed some strategies below to help you get a better perspective on your product and how you can increase its sales. For more strategies, check out Seth Godin's book "Purple Cow" (Portfolio, 2002).

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Can you improve the product? If sales are lagging, chances are that it's more than just a lack of customer awareness. So it's important to always start by exploring what you can do to make the product better. I always like to ask the "magic wand" question of key customers. "If you had a magic wand, what would you change about our product or us?" Make it easy for customers to give you feedback; this is the cheapest focus group you'll ever work with.

Can you copy something done in another industry? Breakthroughs seldom come by copying what someone else in your industry is doing. It's far more common to get insight from somewhere else. So take the time to pay attention to what's happening in industries far removed from yours. A simple way to do this is to seek out newspaper and magazine articles on businesses outside of your industry. Do this regularly and I'll guarantee that you'll get ideas that no one else in your industry has come up with.

Can you zig while others in your industry zag? Every industry has its sacred cows. Take the airline industry. For the longest time their business model was to soak the last minute business flyers with huge prices on tickets. Recently, they learned that by lowering their prices they actually sell more tickets and make more money. What are the "givens" in your industry and how can you challenge them?

How can you make it easy for your customers to talk up your service? It never ceases to amaze me how little most businesses do to encourage their customers to talk up their products. For example, as part of your service can you print up a report on your company and product that a customer can show to their friends or colleagues?

There are times when a new ad campaign is the best way to move more products. But more often it's just as valuable for you to take a hard look in the mirror. And it doesn't have to be one of those "Star Trek" infinity mirrors, any old one will do. Live long and prosper.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which Queen song title best describes your company's products or services?

—"Death on Two Legs," 25 percent

—"We Will Rock You," 34.8 percent

—"The Show Must Go On," 40.1 percent

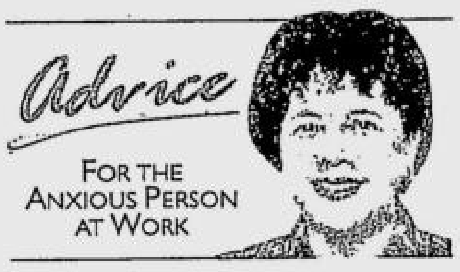
(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

ERNIE Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center speaks on "Win-win negotiation techniques" as part of the "The Best of People at Work Live! Seminar Series," held at The Shangri-La Makati last Sept. 8. The learning sessions were presented by Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Shangri-La Makati and Optimus Innovations, Inc. Other sponsors were ABS-CBN Publishing's Working Mom, EC Business Solutions and Career Center, and Career Systems, Inc.,

ROGER CARPIO

'What can we do with corruption in government?'

By Tita Datu Puangco



Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I READ with disgust the exposés on corruption in the military in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. It looks like corruption has become so endemic to our culture and our country.

Unlike other employees, I am not considering going abroad to work. I have four young children. How can I, as a parent, make sure my children do not get afflicted with this very contagious disease called corruption? I work in a multinational company. We have systems that work to guarantee honest and transparent transactions. Can our government not learn from the best practices in the private sector? Whenever we have regional conferences, I am proud because Filipinos are so intelligent and diligent but we appear helpless in the face of graft and corruption. What can we do to move forward as a nation on this deplorable disease?

Disgusted Citizen

> 'We have to find the small points of light in darkness to give us hope and courage'

I cannot help but agree with your observations. But I strongly think there is hope for us. We have to find the small points of light in the darkness to give us hope and courage. As a consultant in managing change, I know that sometimes things have to worsen to get better. For example, our collective outrage over the situation should give us the energy to move out of complacency and act.

I agree that the private sector has gone into strategic sourcing systems and supply chain management that have allowed companies to reduce costs and maximize resources. I believe that corruption is a consequence of flawed processes. The government has to develop corruption-free and transparent processes in procurement with minimum human interference. Our company has done multiple projects in business process re-engineering, streamlining processes making them more simple and transparent. One is amazed at the added value generated by companies when they do this with sensitive management of change.

I have observed successful installation and management of systems in a number of government systems and transactions. For example, I experienced trouble-free renewal of my passport and driver's license. Residents of Muntinlupa enjoy the automated simplicity of filing real estate taxes. Let us challenge the government to expand these initiatives to other sectors such as the Office of the President, Congress, and the military.

Recently, I attended a one-day meeting convened by Laiko representing the Catholic Laity. The church is gearing up to send qualified volunteers to act as observers in the bidding processes undertaken by government at both national and local levels. This project, when put into motion, is indeed commendable. It is meant to check a flawed bidding and procurement system. A more strategic move is for the government to seriously go into e-procurement where all bids are made transparent to all bidders and to the general public.

What can we do to ensure our children do not end up embracing corruption in the future? We as parents can sensitize them to ethical behavior. For example, one rule is not to touch dishonest pesos. This means giving back to the last centavo change due to a person. We also have to go out of our way to make sure our children in school do not spend beyond their means. Recently, I read a survey that showed that many students have the propensity to borrow or go in debt to classmates because of consumerism or even gambling.

Then, we can conduct ethics seminars in all offices. When a person encounters an ethical dilemma, he or she must know the steps to take to solve the problem. He or she must be able to raise the issue with the superior and get enlightened advice. We also know that corruption thrives when people in the private sector, for example, bribe to get juicy government contracts. They go out of their way to understand the weaknesses of people in authority and craft tempting offers that are difficult to refuse.

I am sure our readers will have other suggestions. Please write and we will share to our readers your ideas. Meantime, let us keep faith in the ability of the Filipino to rise above his or her greed and selfishness to move towards honest and patriotic action. Thanks for your letter.

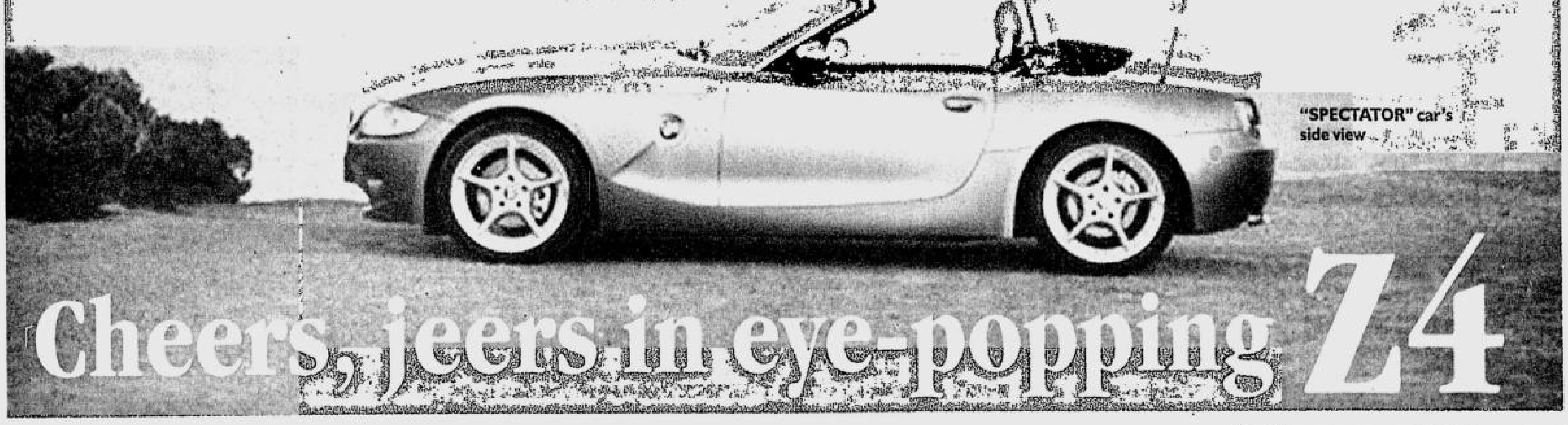
(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



"SPECTATOR" car's side view

Cheers, jeers in eye-popping Z4

By Tessa R. Salazar

EDSA is not exactly the place you would want your hair down, much less the roof of your convertible down, for all Metro Manilans to see. We wouldn't even want to expose our nose hairs to all that pollution wafting around the country's busiest thoroughfare formerly known as Highway 54.

But for this "lass of the masses" to be seen by her fellow *"jologs"* in an ultra-elite "aspirational" car like a BMW Z4—on Highway 54 no less—deserves another story; this story.

A BMW Z4 fell into my hands. For somebody who could barely afford to pay her cell phone bills, driving around a P3.7-million two-door convertible generated suspicion. Did I start an affair with an old general? Did I win the lotto? Did a rich relative bequeath his riches upon us? I wish. All I told them was I'd be living the life for five days. Five days—that's all I had to enjoy what many consider one of the best, and most prestigious, roadsters today.

Before starting the engine, I appreciated the Z4 2.5i's form and function while at rest. The two-seater 2004 BMW Z4 is powered by a 2.5-liter, 192-hp five-speed engine with 245Nm over 3,500 rpm that is also equipped with a sequential manual gearbox. From any angle, the Z4 body looked muscular and ready and raring to go, and if the car had a choice, it wouldn't think twice about leaving its owner behind and painting the town red all by itself. And may I dare say that the Z4 is designed as a "spectator car" as much as a personal convertible, in the sense that people around it seem to enjoy staring at the car as much as the owner takes pleasure in driving it.

Starting the engine, I did notice that intimidating burble—the sound that dares the driver to step on it some more—frolic with the car more intensely. Revving the engine, the in-line six-cylinder bellows above the din of traffic, calling attention upon itself.

In motion, the BMW Z4 looks impatient in traffic. And were it not for the price of this car and the fuel it consumes, I would have gladly given in to the impulse of escaping city traffic and eating up the country roads and mountain passes this car was actually designed to run on. It is a Sunday car, designed for constant motion unhindered by stop-and-go traffic. If this were a city car, then I would have looked for a full-time manual transmission variant of the Z4 (BMW Philippines offers a Z4 MT).

> Before driving the Z4, I had to ask myself, would I be 'man' enough to let my top down?

Another proof that the Z4 is meant outside the city is the button-control DSC (dynamic stability control) perfect for throttle and steering response ideal for negotiating the skewed routes of the country's various zigzag roads (e.g. Tagaytay, Quezon, Baguio).

Toying with the button

Of course, before doing anything else, I did what any first-time convertible driver would do: toy with the button that opens and closes the soft-top cover. In less than 10 seconds the soft-top was conveniently tucked behind the seat compartments, and fellow motorists and pedestrians would be treated to a cross-section of the Z4's no-nonsense interiors and the driver. So, before driving out of BMW Autohaus in Libis where I picked the Z4 up, I had to ask myself, would I be "man" enough to let my top down and show the Manila motoring crowd my "driving persona"? I figured that question could only be answered with time. With that thought, off I drove, the roof of the Z4 drawn up to protect my identity, for the moment.

Immediately after merging with traffic along C-5 Road, I could already feel the stares from fellow car drivers, jeepney and bus passengers.

At a stop, passengers of a few jeepneys and

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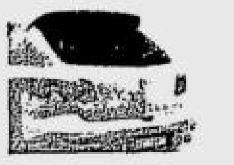

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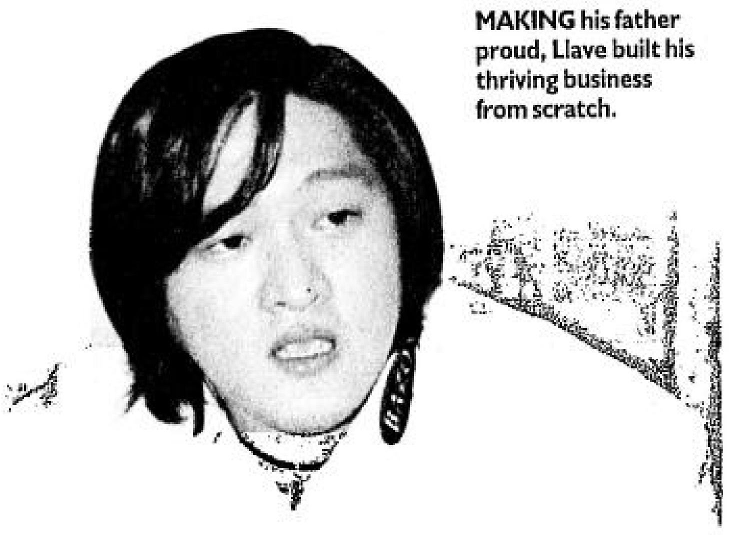
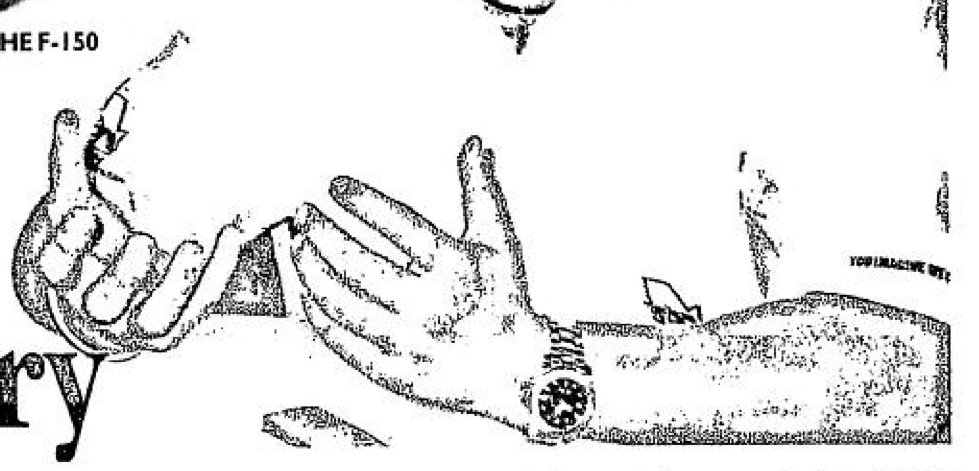


MAKING his father proud, Llave built his thriving business from scratch.

Turning rides to anything but ordinary



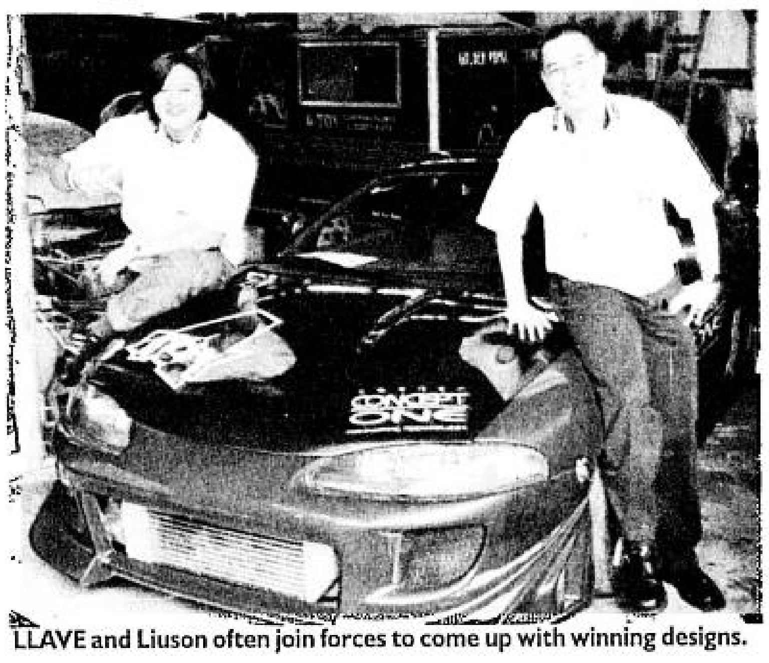
Text by Charles E. Buban
Photos by Roger Carpio

A TOY Llave grew up around cars and has been "dressing them up" since he was a teenager.

At 15 he had his own Toyota Cressida modified: body repainted and lowered while the audio system setup along with the rest of the car's interior personalized.

While still in college, he entered his first car competition where he won best in paint during the 1993 Trans Sport Show for his green Toyota Corolla entry.

This got Llave started in joining car show competitions year after year where he consistently win awards while wowing the crowd with his extraordinary design entries.



LLAVE and Liuson often join forces to come up with winning designs.

Serious cash

"But it was not until my graduation in '95 that I decided to turn this infatuation into serious cash," remembered Llave.

Since he needed to build a name for his start-up business, he initially invited his close friends to entrust to him their most valued cars.

That was how A-Toy Bodykits came to be, initially painting (changing colors) and modifying cars (in 1997) for Llave's "trusting" customers.

"I knew that success will come later if one successfully build loyalty from these close friends who could afterward be advocates for my business," he said.

Top rated

Indeed, from a network of highly satisfied friends, he soon received referrals ranging from movie and television celebrities to politicians.

That turned A-Toy Bodykits from a tiny start-up into today's top-rated restorer and customizer of Japanese and European cars in the country.

> His wild imagination helped him well in coming up with winning designs

In fact, the company has now established its own brand of locally made aero body kits that are being exported to the United States.

Seeing these credentials, a number of locally based car manufacturers including GM, Honda, Hyundai, Isuzu, and Nissan, made A-Toy Bodykits one of their original equipment manufacturer (OEM) suppliers.

Designing body kits

Although Llave had no formal training in designing eye-catching body kits, his years of working on or around cars and his wild imagination helped him well in coming up with winning designs.

He usually does his conceptualization in his restoration and body painting workshop on West Avenue (Quezon City) or in his modification shop on Gilmore Street, Quezon City and sometimes in his TireBoy showroom on Sto. Domingo Street (Sta. Mesa Heights) also in Quezon City.

"I don't stop from learning and discovering new things," he said. "I regularly attend car design seminars and motor shows abroad to hone my skills," he added.

And if he is not attending seminars and car shows, Llave is usually found in front of his computer browsing on car manufacturers' web pages and various car clubs.

"You never know when and where an inspiration for a great design would hit you," he said.

Not alone

When it comes to coming up with award-winning entries, he has a network of friends who supply him with the necessary parts and accessories.

Among them are Sammy Liuson of Wheel Gallery who sells exotic magwheels and tires; Arvin Lim who supplies him with performance shock absorbers; and Benedict Go, where Llave get high-intensity discharge bulbs for his works.

"We're like a family here. Each one of us has something that would complement each other's line of business," said Liuson who considers himself as Llave's father-like figure after Llave's father passed away in 1995.

Usual partner

Liuson, who markets highly rated Concept One, MKW and Bazo brands of alloy wheels as well as high-performance Nitto SUV, usually partners with Llave to come up with projects they both enter in local car competitions.

"The latest is the customized Ford F-150 that won top honors in the recently concluded Sport Truck and Custom Car Show at the SM Megamall," boasted Llave.

The F-150's stunning exterior is wrapped in a specially designed widened body by A-Toy Bodykits while Liuson fitted it with a massive 24 x 10-inch chrome MKW mag wheels.

"This truck represents the teamwork of the best custom builders in the automotive aftermarket industry. When good quality products are fused together with the right idea, it is really hard to beat," said Liuson.

Expensive but worth the price

Although Llave's body kits are expensive—a CR-V's would cost around P150,000 while a Lincoln Navigator conversion kit for new Ford Expedition would fetch around P450,000—he insisted his price tag is justified.

"I pay attention to details. Not many of my counterparts here in the country realize that when it comes to body kits, everything must be considered: safety is just one of them," he reasoned out.

For instance, he revealed that the bumpers he designed feature crumple zones that prevent other parts of the body kit as well as the engine itself from being damaged in the event of a collision.

"It takes a lot of measuring in the computer and actual testing on our workshop to come up with such a design parameter," he explained.

"I think I will only be satisfied when my customer tells me the job I did looks great and perform excellently," Llave said. "I will always make sure that they are happy with what they paid for, and I will always be glad to help them in every way that I can. These are my promises to them," he added.

Cheers, jeers in eye-popping Z4

From page C1

a bus stared, while some pointed at the car and smiled in appreciation. One jeepney driver even went to the extent of asking what car I was driving. I rolled my window down coolly and replied "BMW Z4" like it was nothing.

But of course, inside, I was shaking with excitement. I never had this kind of attention before in a car. And my top was still up. Imagine the fanfare I would get if I let my top down.

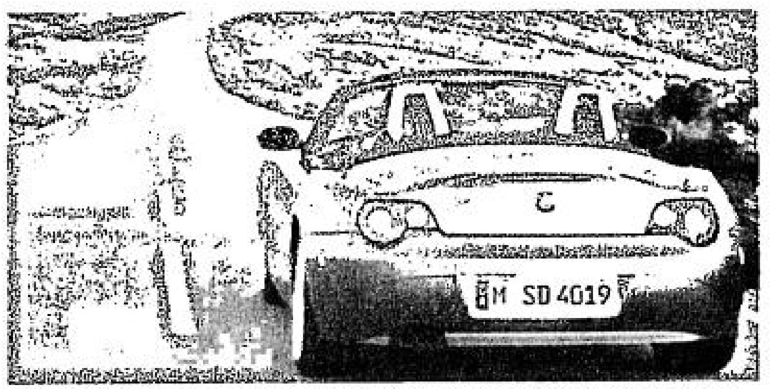
The soft-top wasn't very good insulation from the sound of the engine. But then, I thought, maybe BMW makers wanted Z4 owners to hear the hum of the engine.

The next few days saw me drive the Z4 to high-class locales and functions: to Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Cavite; to an afternoon press conference with F1 superstar Fernando Alonso in Intramuros; and to a night meeting with fellow motoring reporters at the Speedzone at The Fort. All of these trips, however, were done with me under the protective shell of the roof. I just wasn't ready to get exposed.

Bringing the top down

It would take a veteran colleague to persuade me to bring the top down: a hitchhiker by the name of Aris Ilagan, Manila Bulletin's resident evil, er, defense and motoring reporter. Aris implored me to "feel the wind, feel the elements." I thought he was going to fart, so in panic I brought the roof down. In retrospect, and in between guffaws, I remembered Aris just repeated what BMW Philippines president Dr. Joerg Breuer told me in an earlier interview: That whenever anyone would drive a Z4 (or any convertible for that matter), one has to let the top down to "feel the wind, feel the elements."

And so the top was down, and there was nothing I could do but nervously enjoy the moment. The next few minutes saw me and Aris taking in all that Roxas Boulevard, Intramuros and Edsa could muster: the smoke, the stares, the smart-aleck remarks, and a few appreciative shouts of "*ang ganda mo*, miss!" (though with that last remark it was Aris who shouted "thank you!" back).



Z4 IS IDEAL for negotiating the skewed routes of the country's zigzag roads

The attention was discomforting. I wanted so much to bring the cover back up, but we were moving in the middle of the road, so the cover wouldn't activate.

Noticeable about the steering wheel was its character of stiffening during higher speeds, and its softening when maneuvering during low speeds and parking.

Runaway winner

Feature- and comfort-wise, this Z4 is a runaway winner over the earlier Z3 she drove two years ago on the way to Baguio. Z4 is said to have lost weight but not light enough to sacrifice the rigidity of the vehicle. BMW officials said they have made the Z4's body extra-strong yet extra-light, and has been designed from the outset as a genuine roadster. The specs sheet and drive feel indicate torsional stiffness of 14,500 Nm/degree, exceeding the torsional stiffness of the Z3 (5,600 Nm/degree) more than twice.

BMW boasts that never before has a convertible or roadster offered torsional stiffness of this standard, brilliantly solving the conflict of interest between saloon-like smoothness and vibration control, on the one hand, and a dynamic, sporting suspension setup on the other.

Of course, the remaining stiffness of the Z4 could still be unnerving for those who want an everyday car. But to put things in perspective, in this part of the world, the Z4 is not an everyday car. It is meant to be taken out only occasionally. And, based on my experience, owners should see the wisdom of choosing where you drive it, lest your status be questioned.

For example, during the trip to Eagle Ridge, our group decided to stop by a roadside *carinderia* eatery along Aguinaldo Highway. Residents there kept on asking what the Z4 was doing near the *carinderia*.

Three of my motoring colleagues remarked on the similarity of the handling of the Z4 with the BMW 3 series, with its go-kart like response. Some even said the Z4 felt like a BMW 325 M-Sport.

BMW says that while the Z4 has been carried over in its basic configuration from the 3 Series, the suspension has modified the setup, focusing on even more dynamic handling than, say, the suspension of the 3 Series coupé. The perfect balance of weight on the two axles provides all the ingredients for harmonious behavior on the road. A further factor is rear-wheel drive offering decisive benefits particularly in a sports car—for example by keeping the steering absolutely free of drive forces, ensuring superb steering precision and providing absolutely clear feedback.

DSC with DTC

The first thing that came into mind when this writer saw the Dynamic Stability Control even with agile handling on the Z4 is, "What is a DSC button still doing on this car?" The answer from Z4 makers is plain and simple: even though the suspension offers safety reserves so sufficient, this safety system is only required in really dangerous situations and not as some kind of enhancement for the suspension.

A further important point is that the new DTC (Dynamic Traction Control) allows the Z4 driver to adjust the DSC to his personal dynamic driving requirements: At the touch of a button, DTC provides an increase in slip control on the rear wheels geared to actual driving conditions. Fitted with DTC, the Z4 offers the same agility as a sports car featuring a "classic" limited-slip differential, without forfeiting the usual DSC functions under extreme conditions.

How safe is the Z4? BMW says that the backbone for the high standard of passive safety offered to the driver and passenger is the extremely stable body structure using high-strength steel wherever appropriate. The A-pillars form a rollbar at the front supplemented by two steel rollbars behind the seats. The driver and passengers are protected in the Z4 by four airbags fitted as standard.

Is the BMW Z4's form appealing to just a certain age group? Not so. In my experience, everyone I knew who had a look and feel of the drive had nothing but praises for the Z4. Everyone, from twentysomething neophyte journalists to BMW Z Club members 60 and above, were magnetized by the Z4's handsome appeal.

If you're used to the attention and all that power in your hands, then the price you pay for all that (P3.7 million for the automatic transmission, P3.6 for the MT) would be worth it. In five days, I finally understood why it was so hard for Frodo to let go of his "precious."

SEVEN of the 16-person promo team

Germany's pride and joy

TO JAZZ up the events celebrating 170 years of German-Philippine relations in this month's Octoberfest, 16 German teenagers have been tapped to be part of the celebration.

Most of Filipino-German ancestry, the students from the German School in Parañaque—each one a joy to his/her multiracial origins—do their promo rounds in, what else, but one of Germany's pride, a Mercedes Benz.

The promo team includes:

- Sana, 18, born of a Filipino mother and a German father, who lived in Munich then moved to Hamburg and home to Manila in 1996.
- Felix, 17, born in Stuttgart; moved to Manila in 2001.
- Tobias, 14, born in Stuttgart, lived there 12 and half years; arrived in the Philippines two and a half years ago.
- Anthony, 14, is Swiss born in Costa Rica; moved to the Philippines in 1999.
- Jose, Portuguese-Austrian born in South Africa; lived in Namibia, Germany and Portugal before settling here in 2001.
- Dre, 17, pure Filipino who lived in New Delhi and Berlin before coming home last year.

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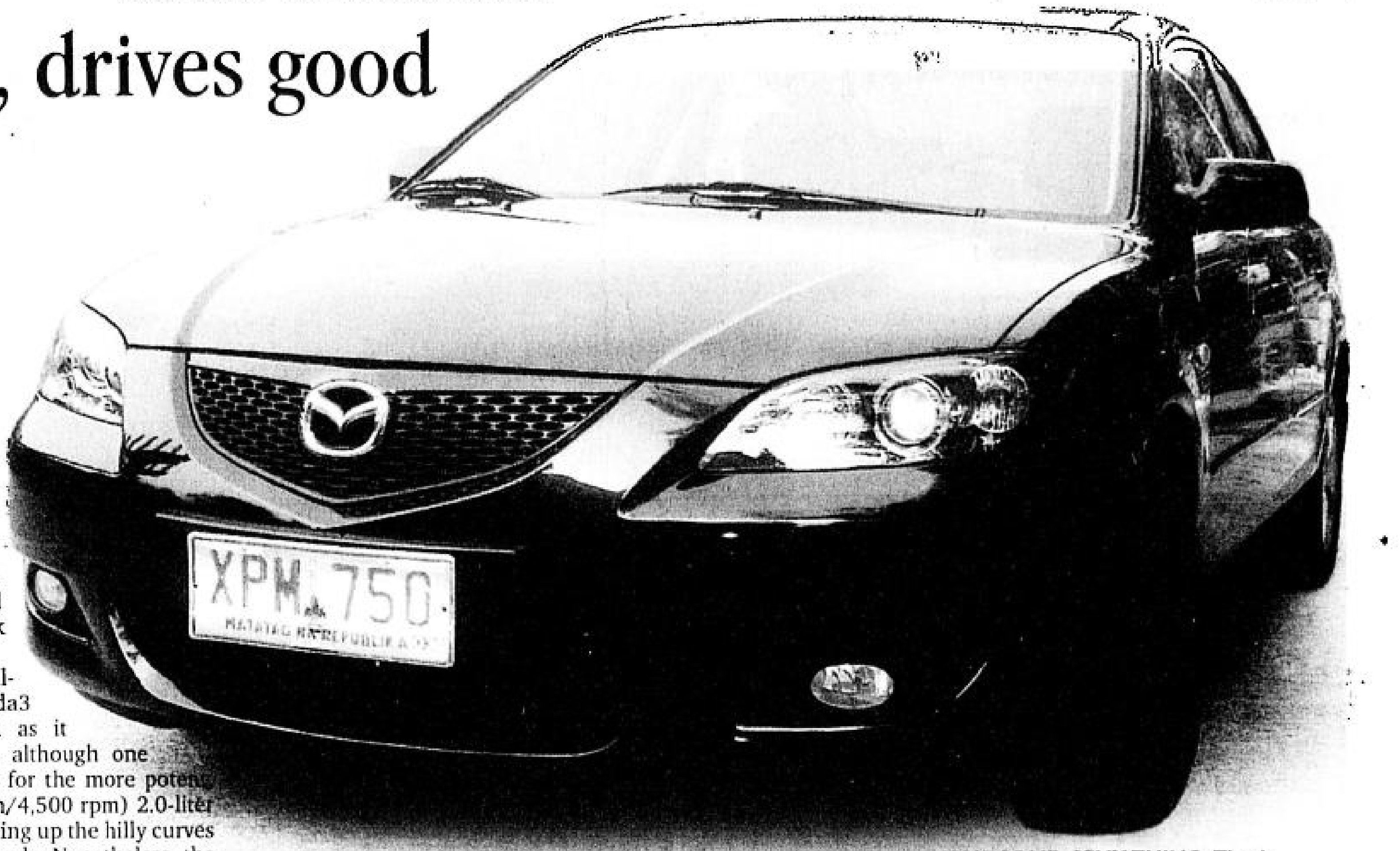
Mazda3 looks good, drives good



HANDSOME, SEXY THING. The 4-door compact Mazda3 was designed to look like a snazzy sports coupé befitting Mazda's "zoom,zoom, zoom" mantra.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IT ISN'T often that a car gets to be described as *"guwapo"* by people soon after its intro. But this early in the game—it was launched in Manila only a month ago—that flattering adjective has stuck to the Mazda3.

One glance at the Mazda3 and you'll know why. This four-door compact sedan was designed and built in such a way that it looks like a snazzy sports coupé befitting the "zoom zoom zoom" mantra of its manufacturer. Everything about the stylish, low-slung Mazda3 suggests speed, strength and muscle. It awakens the passion for adventure and a yearning to hit the road just for the sheer joy of driving it.

Sold out

Since the 3 is offered with either a 2.0- or a 1.6-liter engine, buyers with no budget limitations would naturally opt for the top-of-the-line 2.0-liter (P925,000) that comes with a power sunroof, black leather seats, 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels and a lip-type rear spoiler as standard equipment. In fact, as I write this the 2.0-liter Mazda3 is sold out and there is a backlog of waiting buyers. Suddenly all the other cars in the same market segment look dated.

With the 2.0-liter so much in demand, Mazda Philippines had no demo unit for me to test-drive for a week recently except a 1.6 model. Surprisingly enough, I found the infinity black 1.6L V Mazda3 even sexier than the petrol red 2.0L R unit that I and other motoring journalists took turns driving around the sprawling Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Cavite the other weekend for the Car of the Year project. With its honeycomb mesh grille (as distinguished from the 2.0's slatted grille) and black woven seats with red accent, the black 1.6L V looks more dashing than the red 2.0-liter 3.

V and S

Given the soaring price of gasoline these days, if I were a buyer I would choose the 1.6 rather than the 2.0-liter even though the latter packs more horsepower (141 ps/6,500 rpm) than the former (105 ps/6,000 rpm). The Mazda3 1.6-liter is available in two trims: the V (P780,000) and the S (P719,000) which is the basic model. What the 1.6 V has that the 1.6 S does not have are six speakers (the S has only four), the red accent on the seats and door trims, front fog lamps, body color top bar on the black radiator grille, two SRS airbags (the S has only a driver-side one), ABS with EBD and brake assist. What's more, the V has 16-inch alloy wheels compared to the S's 15 and there is no infinity black S model sold here.

The question naturally arises: Does the Mazda3 1.6 perform as good as it looks? Definitely yes, although one may occasionally long for the more potent, more torquey (181 Nm/4,500 rpm) 2.0-liter engine, as when caroming up the hilly curves of the Tagaytay Highlands. Nonetheless, the twin-cam, 16-valve 1.6-liter engine with sequential valve timing mated to a 4-speed automatic transmission with "Activematic" or manual shift mode responds eagerly and the disc brakes front and rear are strong. The 1.6's max torque is 145 Nm/4,500 rpm.

Better

The 3 offers a firmer, more balanced ride and better handling than its predecessor, the Protege, thanks to a sport-tuned multilink suspension and the same basic chassis as that of the Ford Focus and the Volvo S40. (Both Mazda and Volvo, if you don't know it yet, are owned by Ford Motor Co.) Some experts prefer the hydraulic steering of the 1.6 Mazda3 to the electrohydraulic steering of the 2.0-liter and find the 1.6 engine smoother, quieter and more refined than the 2.0-liter engine.

Driving the Mazda3, whatever the powertrain, is a pleasure as the driver's seat is height-adjustable and has lumbar support while all the other seats are just as comfortable. A tilt and telescopic-adjustable steering wheel with integrated audio controls is standard in all models. The 3's long 103.9-inch wheelbase and wide tread front and rear translate into more space for passengers, particularly in terms of shoulder room for rear seat occupants. The luggage area is big for a compact car and the 40/60 split rear seat backrests can be folded down to increase cargo space.

Upscale

The interior of the 3 is as impressive as its exterior, what with upscale ergonomics such as a 6-disc in-dash CD player with six speakers, central info display, hot red illumination for the logically positioned meters and ignition bezel, a big and roomy glove compartment, a center console box that can hold a dozen CDs, Euro-style side pocket with cupholder in every door, whiplash-reducing headrests and child-anchor seats.

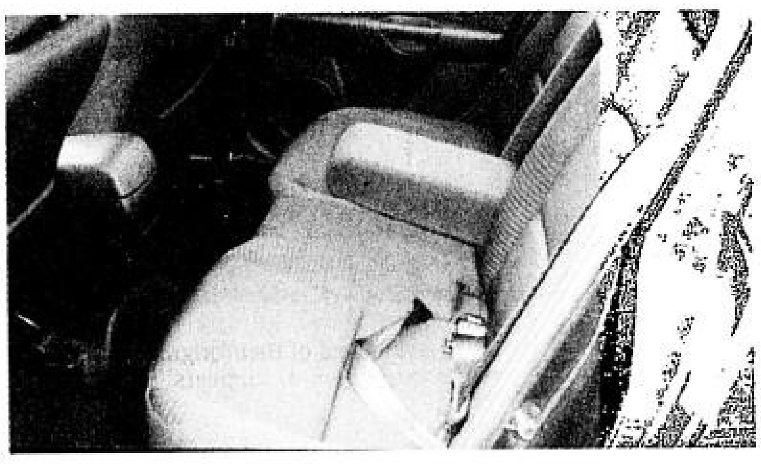
Summing up, the eye-catching Mazda3 1.6L V redefines and sets a new pace for the 1.6-liter sports compact genre. It looks good, drives good and delivers exceptional value for its price.

Cotyp Update. Last weekend, members of the Car Awards Group tested AUVs and pickup trucks at Eagle Ridge, Cavite, for the Car of the Year Philippines (Cotyp) project it has begun in cooperation with Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the national auto club. Executive sedans, minivans, full-size SUVs, compact SUVs, luxury cars and subcompact cars are also scheduled for testing in the next few weekends, but not necessarily in that order.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

IMPRESSIVE INTERIOR. Quality and substance with hot red illuminating the logically positioned meters.



ROOMY AT THE REAR. The Mazda 3's long wheelbase and wide tread front and rear create enough room for two six-footers in the rear seat

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOMING AHEAD OF YOU. That good-looking, sporty rear end must belong to a Mazda3.

PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

CLEANER ENGINES - CLEANER AIR

"Breathe in that fresh air..." is fast becoming a rare statement, especially in today's crowded urban environs. Smog, dust and unpleasant odors are what greet the nostrils of most city dwellers. Modern-day progress, while bringing about a more convenient way to live and work, has also brought new problems-among them threats to our environment. Air pollution, is one of the worst problems our planet has to face today.

The very popular motor vehicle however (cars, buses, trucks, etc), is also one of the major sources of air pollution. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), driving a motor vehicle is the single most polluting thing one can do. Motor vehicles emit millions of pollutants into the air each year. And with millions of motor vehicles on the road all over the world, it is no wonder that our air is heavily polluted.

Tracing the Emissions

While motor vehicles are designed to provide convenience to the user by making travel faster and safer, the internal combustion engine-used to power most motor vehicles-has its downside: the emission of harmful gases. Motor vehicles emit three major types of pollutants: hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and, carbon monoxide. All three are by-products of the internal combustion process at different stages and all three also pose dangers to human and environmental health. Then there is carbon dioxide-a major cause of global warming. And while manufacturers have fitted their vehicles with pollution control devices such as exhaust gas recirculators and catalytic converters, motor vehicle travel has doubled over the past 20 years.

Treating Pollution

While it is a given that internal combustion engines emit harmful gases into the air, this doesn't mean however that nothing can be done about it. STP, a leading manufacturer of quality car care products, offers a line of fuel additive products to help lessen harmful vehicle emissions and clean up the air: STP Gas Treatment; STP Fuel Injector and Carburetor Cleaner; STP Octane Booster and; STP Diesel Fuel Treatment.

At the heart of the engine lies the fuel system. Consisting of such vital parts as the fuel tank (storage); fuel line; carburetor or fuel injectors (in today's modern engines) and the combustion chamber. Its basic function is the storage of fuel in the vehicle, filtering out of particulates, delivery of fuel into the intake air system and, the mixing of air and fuel to provide the most efficient combustion in the engine. Just like any mechanical device however, the fuel system is also prone to wear and tear over time, the most common being deposits in its various parts: Fuel Injector/Carburetor deposits, Intake Valve Deposits and, Combustion Chamber Deposits. All these can lead to loss of power, engine knock or "pinging" (detonation) and increased exhaust emissions.

STP Gas Treatment: Specially formulated to fight harmful carbon, gum and varnish deposits in the fuel system, STP Gas Treatment contains "active additive" ingredients such as a powerful dispersant/detergent; rust inhibitors and; carrier oils which combine to provide optimum protection against deposits. At the same time, it helps to remove carburetor, as well as intake valve and manifold deposits not to mention, preventing sticking of these deposits on metal parts which can easily lead to rust and corrosion. Moreover, it disperses water present in the fuel tank and provides a protective coating against rust.

STP Fuel Injector and Carburetor Cleaner: As the name implies, it helps to keep your vehicle's engine running smoothly by keeping the fuel system free of harmful deposits, helps prevent power loss and maintain optimum engine efficiency, thus avoiding hard starts, poor acceleration and rough idle.

STP Octane Booster: a 2-in-1 formulation that boosts fuel octane and enhances engine performance. More than this, STP Octane Booster restores lost horsepower, removes deposits, which cause knock and pinging, and prevents hard starts.

For owners of diesel-powered vehicles however, don't fret. STP Diesel Fuel Treatment gives the same benefits as STP gasoline fuel system products. This petroleum-based solution of hydrocarbon diluents and proprietary diesel fuel additives acts as an ashless and non-alcohol detergent/dispersant which helps prevent the formation of gum and residue (deposits) in the fuel delivery system while at the same time, its corrosion inhibitors aid in ensuring a clean fuel system, even against rust and corrosion. Moreover, a cold flow improver helps prevent fuel line gel and plugging of fuel filter lines in cold weather conditions.

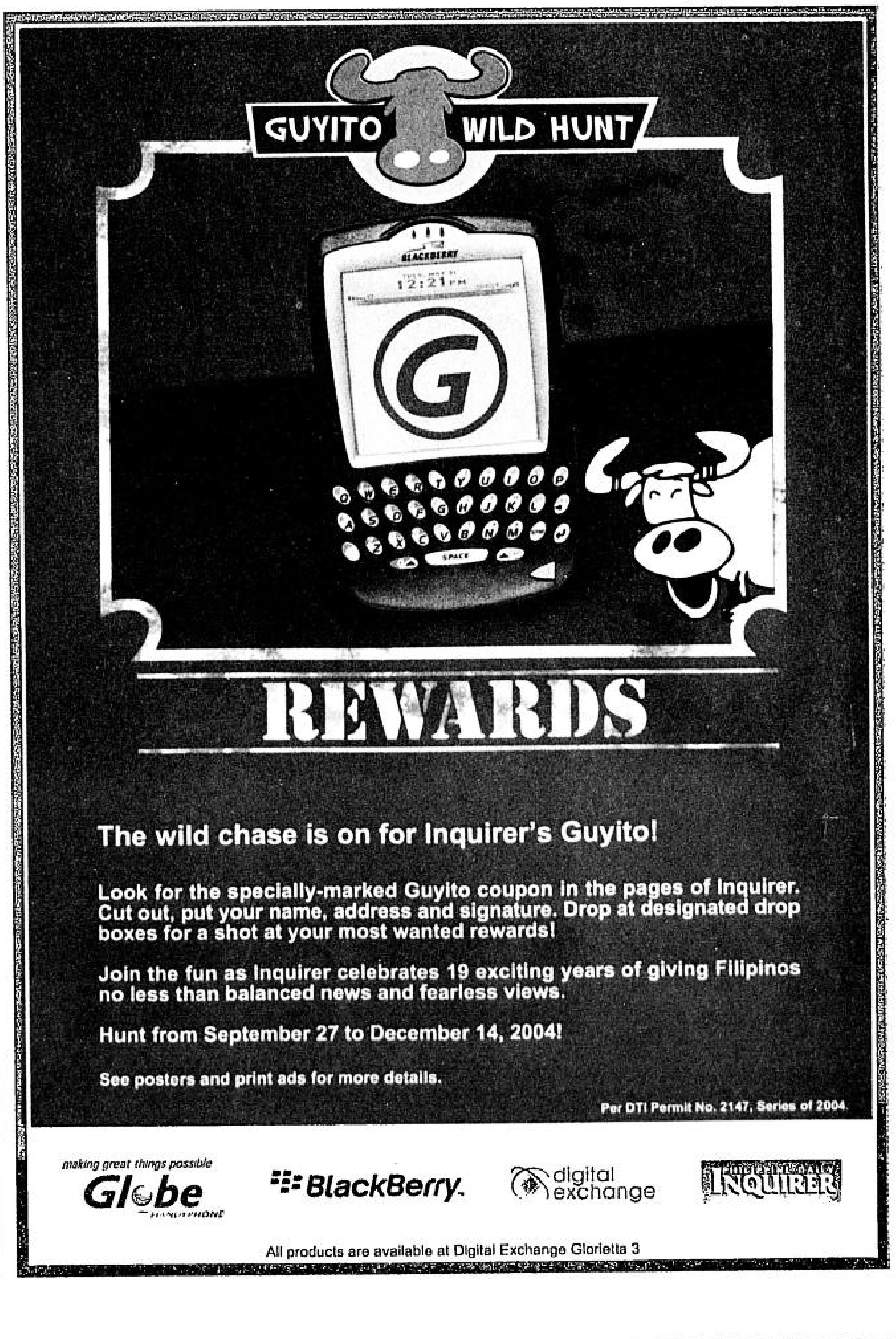
Being Old-Fashioned Still Helps

While fuel additives aid in keeping engines running smoother and cleaner, nothing beats good old-fashioned preventive maintenance to ensure optimum performance and reliability. Poorly maintained vehicles can emit 10 times as much pollutants as well-maintained ones. So it wouldn't hurt to observe simple things like having engines tuned-up regularly, regular changing of air, oil and fuel filters, checking to make sure tire pressure is correct (as incorrect tire pressure can increase fuel consumption and in turn, emissions), making sure your exhaust pipe remains smoke-free are just the basics.

More than keeping vehicles in top form, one can also try some other things like carpooling or taking public transport to reduce the number of vehicles on the road; traveling at moderate speed to save fuel (why be in a hurry right?); not topping off the tank when filling up to avoid spills; opting for cleaner fuels (unleaded gasoline, low-sulfur diesels or when available, alternative fuels) and; buying less-polluting vehicles (low-emissions vehicles or those equipped with catalytic converters).

So the next time you fill up that gas tank, why not pour in some STP Fuel Additives as well. Not only will you be keeping your car's engine dirt free, you will also keep the air pollution free. So we can all "breathe in that fresh air..."

ADVT.



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Mitsubishi is tops; Agbayani calls

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

NOW I know why the North Luzon Expressway has become so smooth as silk these days.

"We have adopted the international standard of smoothening our NLEX," said Ping de Jesus, top honcho of the Manila North Tollways Corp. that has been in charge of the rehabilitation of the main gateway to the North. "Once the project is over, you will be proud to tell the world that we are finally at par with the best expressways in the whole universe," he added.

Ping said the yardstick for a world-class highway is the IRI, or the International Roughness Index. Thus, when I told him about some stretches of the NLEX being redone and redone (as I said, I negotiate the NLEX very often now as I go home to my home province of Pangasinan every now and then), Ping said: "That's because they have not passed the IRI, so the need to redo it all over again. Even the tiniest hump as small as a mole will not be allowed to dot our expressway. We are very strict in enforcing the agreement regarding world-class standards of the NLEX."

So there.

Keep on punching, Ping.

* * *

I keep saying here that late is never late. And so, here's a warm applause for Mitsubishi for topping the sales for commercial vehicles in September.

At the same time, Mitsubishi maintained its No. 2 position in the category of total industry sales.

"This is something that we at Mitsubishi take pride in," said Mitsubishi's Arlan Reyes. "In these times when competition is that tough, getting to be No. 1 is a no mean feat and we feel honored once more of the confidence bestowed upon us by our customers."

* * *

On the basis of the combined reports of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), the Mitsubishi Motors Philippines led total commercial vehicles sales for September. It sold a total of 990 units of commercial vehicles composed of Adventure, L300, Space Gear, L200 pickups, Outlander and Pajero SUVs and Fuso Canter light trucks for a 22.2 percent market share of the total commercial vehicle category.

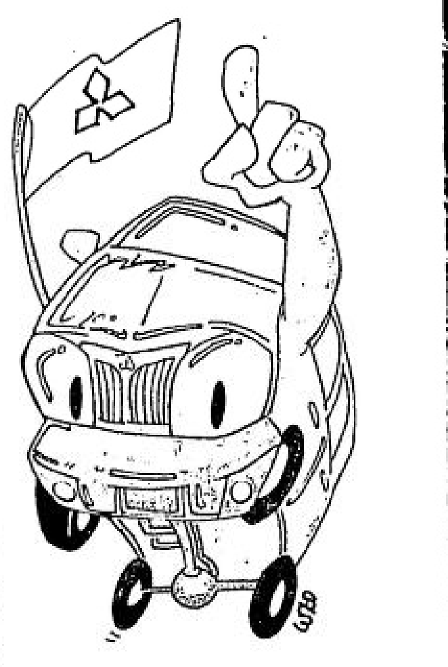
Toyota sold 929 units of commercial vehicles in September but it still managed to lead total overall sales with 2,029 units for a 27.3 percent market share due to its strong passenger car sales performance.

Mitsubishi's commercial vehicles in September dropped slightly by 3 percent versus August. Mitsubishi attributes the decline to the limited supply of its saleable units such as Adventure, L300 and Pajero models brought about by a shortage in local parts by its vendor.

* * *

Said Froilan Dytianquin, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines assistant vice president for marketing services: "We are still optimistic that the last quarter will produce better sales performance for the automotive industry due to seasonality, and the aggressiveness of all assemblers to carry out consumer-related promotions to make vehicles more affordable."

Froi added: "For MMPC, we project better sales this month due to improved availability of our Adventure models. We are also very pleased that sales of the Adventure models has been improving for the past few months and this can only be credited to the Adventure's improved quality level and good overall value for money proposition."



Mitsubishi also reported that sales of its passenger cars sales, mainly composed of the Lancer 1.6-liter models, improved by 65 percent, with sales of 187 units versus 113 units in August. Both Toyota and Honda dominated the passenger car sales for September with sales of 1,093 units (36.5 percent market share) and 712 units (23.8 percent market share), respectively, due to its small passenger car sales.

Mitsubishi was able to keep its No. 2 position in overall year-to-date sales with total sales of 9,298 units, representing 14.4 percent market share. Toyota Motors Philippines led the industry with 21,912 units for a 33.9 percent market share. Honda was third with a total of 8,317 units for a 12.9 percent market share.

To the Mitsubishi guys that also include marketing wizard Mel Dizon, here's a glass to your continued good performance. Good sales will always mean there's hope in the land. And when there's hope, job security is assured—almost.

Cheers!

* * *

Gov. Victor Agbayani of Pangasinan called me up the day my piece about the utter state of disrepair of Canatan, the bridge of my youth that Public Works Secretary Soriquez built together with my late father, appeared here last week.

"The problem there is, your barangay council objected to our plan of repairing the bridge because they argued that closing the bridge for 60 days would cause them much inconvenience," the governor told me. "But don't worry. Our men are looking for a scheme that should lessen the number of days to repair the bridge."

Thank you, governor. As I said, it's been almost five years since that bridge fell "into a coma" and nothing has been done to save it. I hope that this time, the promise will be finally fulfilled.

And, yes, thank you also to lawyer Boy Solis, the provincial administrator, for ringing me up and then linking me up to the governor so that we could discuss the fate of Canatan.

Public service at its best, I must say. I just hope that this Christmas, that bridge, whose construction in the '60s had my father as the foreman, will be in tip-top shape again.

Right, Mr. Governor?

* * *

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Beauty–inside and out

Let's explore the realm of attractiveness–physical and otherwise. Read about a new pampering haven, witness how a cosmetics brand played fairy godmother to makeover-happy correspondents, learn about an organization that celebrates outstanding students and be inspired by the amazing achievements of the 20 finalists for our Best Student Volunteer search.
Beauty starts skin deep, but it's up to us where to take it from there.

Fuss-free beauty haven

Lora Gabol

FOR the first time in, well, so long I've actually lost track, I am not allowing this column to revolve around my (usually) stress-laden existence.

Enough of fixating on my doomed under-eye circles, schizo skin and lifeless hair. Today, I will talk about the highlight of my week: a relaxing visit to the salon that didn't just hide the evidence of my unforgivably low-maintenance beauty regimen (this is your cue to erase any mental images of me bathing in milk and honey in your head), but truly got my spirit revived as well.

As much as I love being treated like a princess with simultaneous pampering from head to toe, I am the last person you'd see breezing through salon doors on a regular basis since my frenetic schedule rarely allows it. Also, I have unknowingly conditioned myself to set a different kind of body clock: After two hours in beauty heaven, I inevitably get the itch to get off my butt and get back to the reality of deadlines and articles—probably my version of daylight "saving time."

A few days ago, however, I chanced upon a brand-new *kikay* haven that was a stone's throw away from my cluttered desk. Such close proximity and convenience had me literally running to Metrowalk, the new restaurant strip along Ortigas, and the perfect location of the chic Azta Urban Salon, which I'd like to think is my favorite hangout of the moment.

Hip sanctuary

From the second I stepped through—okay, more like stumbled into (I was at the mercy of a giant work bag!)—the salon's doors, I was greeted hello by siblings Jon and Gin Bantigue, two of the "masterminds" behind the modern beauty sanctuary right smack in the middle of one of Manila's bustling business districts. With both of them looking like they just stepped out of their togas, I knew I was within the four walls of what must be one of the city's hippest salons.

After a three-second ocular, I quickly decided that I was definitely in BYT turf. Azta does not only have bright young things (PBA fresh face and former UAAP heartthrob Paul Artadi, stunning TV actress Tin Arnaldo) as image models, but interiors reminiscent of a twentysomething's cool pad. Bright walls, neon-striped chairs, sleek furniture, and a shelf stocked with an entertaining mix of glossies and books—the place definitely felt like home to me!

After a short chat with Jon about the many common friends we shared (so Friendster, I know), he introduced me to senior stylist Lolit, and told me that I would be "diagnosed" after some friendly Q&A. Gin informed me that Azta offers a unique twist to the usual salon menu by customizing every client's beauty package according to his/her lifestyle, preferences and budget.

Very ingenious—and very affordable, too! You can avail of a makeover for as low as P440, or go all out and revamp your entire look—and still end up saving money. You'll love filling up their customer information sheet, too. I felt like I was writing on one of those autograph books so much (they ask what kind of music you like and what you do on weekends), I almost scribbled down a dedication!

This was what earned the place major points for me. I had yet to come across a salon with honest-to-goodness personalized services until I came to Azta.

After the whole getting-to-know-you-and-your hair, Lolit immediately advised that I get a color change, a hair treatment and eyebrow threading. My good friend Grace, who was only too happy to get pampered, got herself a relaxing aromatherapy hair treatment and a blow dry, a mani-pedi, and a soothing foot spa.

Our verdict? My post-summer locks have faded into an obscure brown-gold, so I chose to go darker for the holidays (I want to do the classic pale skin-dark hair combo this year). Lolit used L'Oreal products to deepen my natural chocolate strands into the darkest brown possible, because raven hair could wash my complexion out, especially since I don't usually pile on the rouge.

Subtly striking results

I absolutely love the results—the effect was so subtly striking. One office mate told me, "Whatever it is you did to your hair, you look fab!" And another said, "Your hair shimmers brown." My dehydrated hair also got a great boost of moisture after my hair treatment, and smelled heavenly after the process (no strong chemical odors!).

Did I mention the amazing scalp massage that went with it? I had to try hard not to drift off and leave Grace chatting with the wall! My brows are now also perfectly arched, thanks to Mariz who impeccably threaded off even the finest strands my tweezer couldn't tame.

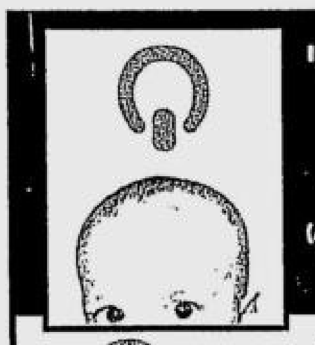
Grace had the time of her life having hair brought back to life with the most fragrant treatment ever, and a "perfect" blow-dry that didn't leave her 'do limp and lank, but naturally bouncy. Her tootsies and *manos* immensely enjoyed every second of their royal treatment as well. She proudly showed off her glowing (just take our word for it) toes in a pair of flip-flops immediately after!

After much deliberation, we still couldn't decide what we loved best about Azta. The services are efficiently and effectively carried out and the results are fantastic, the prices are every wallet's best friend (a cut by a senior stylist will set you back an affordable P180), the location is just perfect (grab lunch right after your appointment or head straight to a gimmick after a prettifying session), and the place has that easygoing vibe devoid of pretentiousness and the snooty factor some high-end salons have (I was walking around with a towel on my head and having a *kwento* marathon with Grace without any trace of self-consciousness).

All in all, Azta Urban Salon is the place to go to for a fuss-free makeover with only the services you need, and the best choice for an afternoon of beautifying (or *pogi*-fying, for lack of a better term) with your buds. You're sure to leave the salon with a fab new look, a rejuvenated mind, and an unbeatably great time. Oh, and leftover cash for some coffee, too.

Azta Urban Salon is located at Unit 12 Metrowalk Commercial Complex (2/F), Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com



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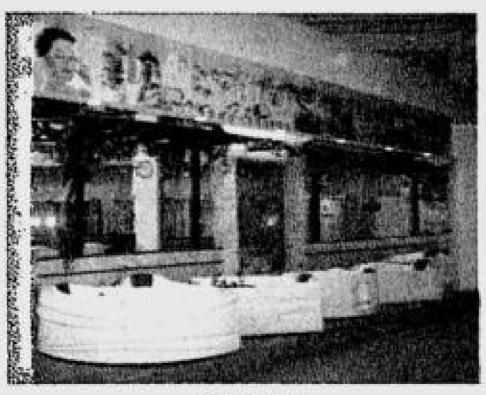
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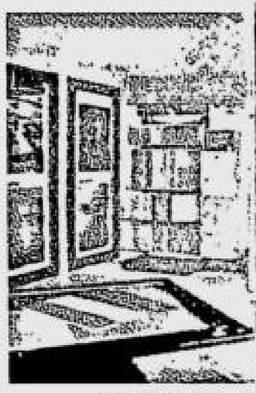
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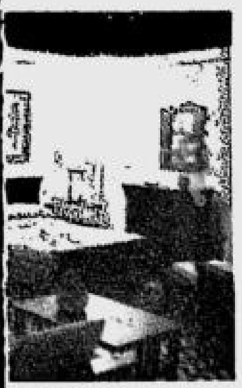
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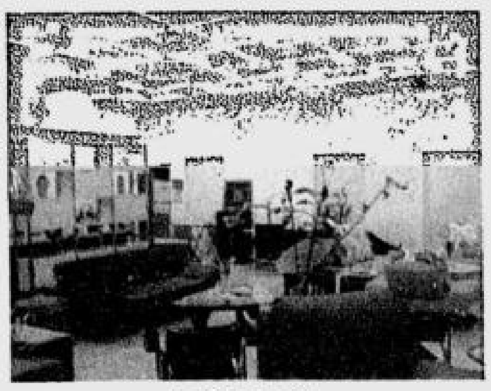
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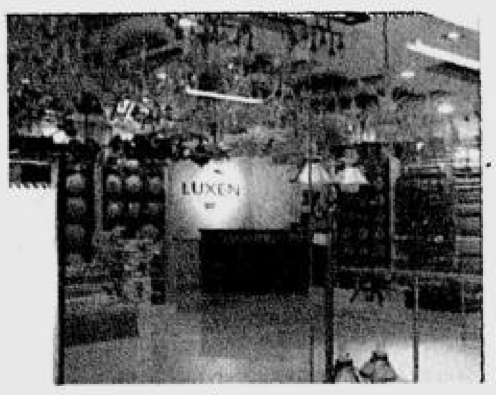
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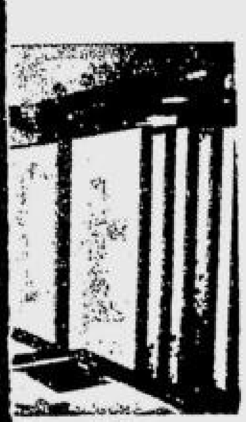
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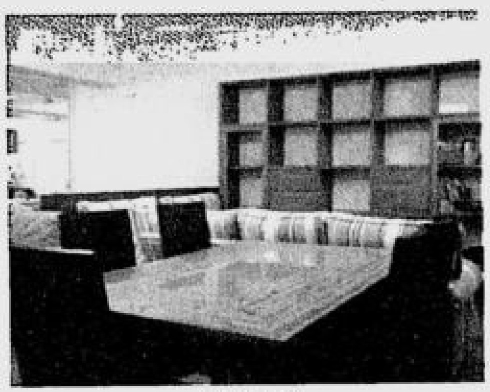
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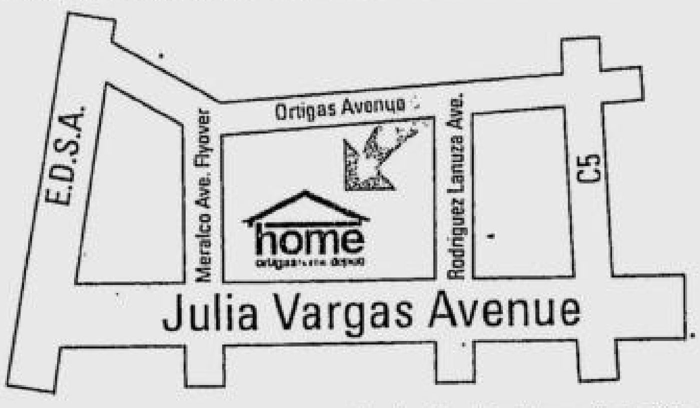

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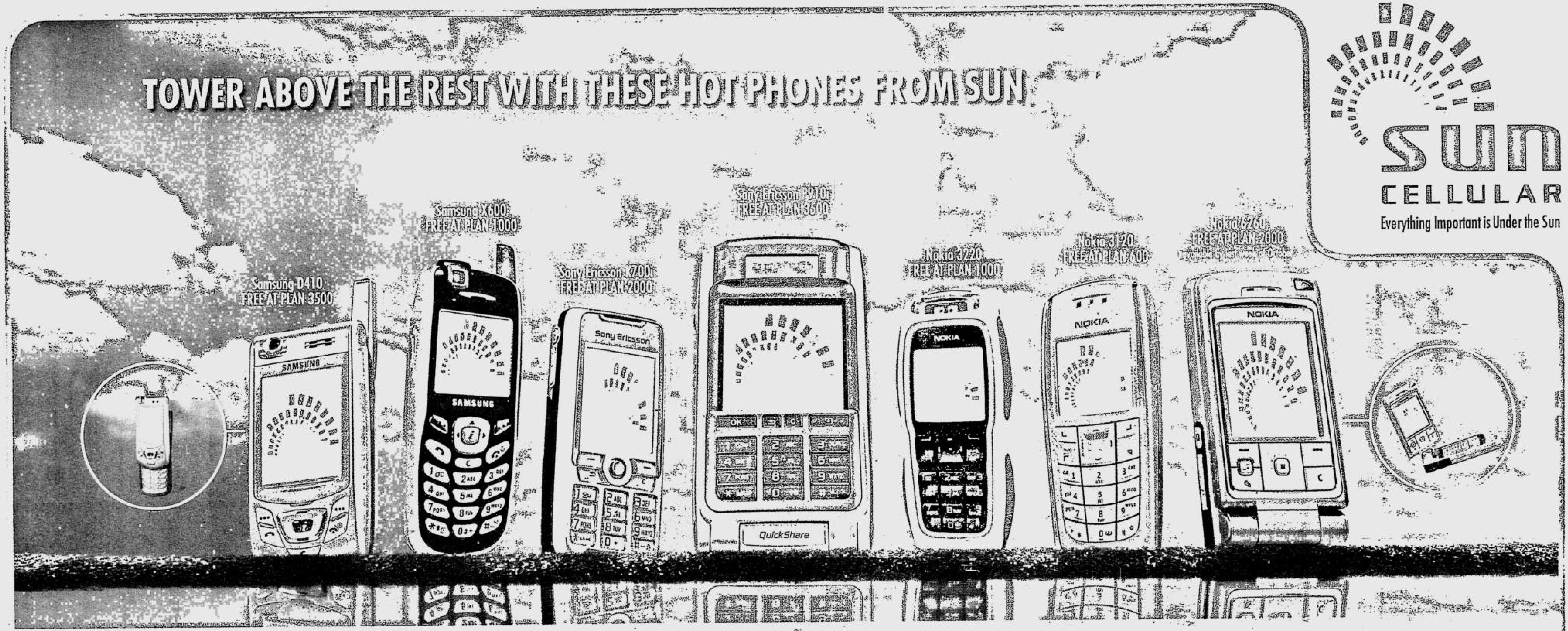
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(CLOCKWISE from top left) Kristine Ching, Sam Refran, Mel Telan, Bianca Consunji, Zee Castro, Vanessa Doctor, and Gem Tomboc BETOY JOHNSON

Makeover times seven

EYEBAGS the size of China, unkempt hair, oily faces and fried brain cells—that's the challenge that anyone who wanted to make over seven 2bU! correspondents/ students had to face.

As writers, we mostly stay out of the limelight and rarely include ourselves in photos, content with working behind the scenes. The rule of thumb is to remain invisible in the story. So, it felt pretty weird writing a story about ourselves—with matching photos exposing each step of our makeover!

Despite the risk of being laughed at by every other person in the country, we eagerly volunteered for the makeovers, as we all desperately needed a new look. With the help of The Body Shop and Fred Penales of Lucy Britanico and Frankie Salon, we got the change that we deserved—hey, even if we stay out of the limelight, we still want to look good and feel good.

MAKEOVER/E2

Do you need a makeover?

2BU! and The Body Shop will be giving away 10 makeovers and two makeup packages to lucky readers. Just tell us which celebrity you want to makeover and why and e-mail your answers to contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your photo, name, age, address and contact info.

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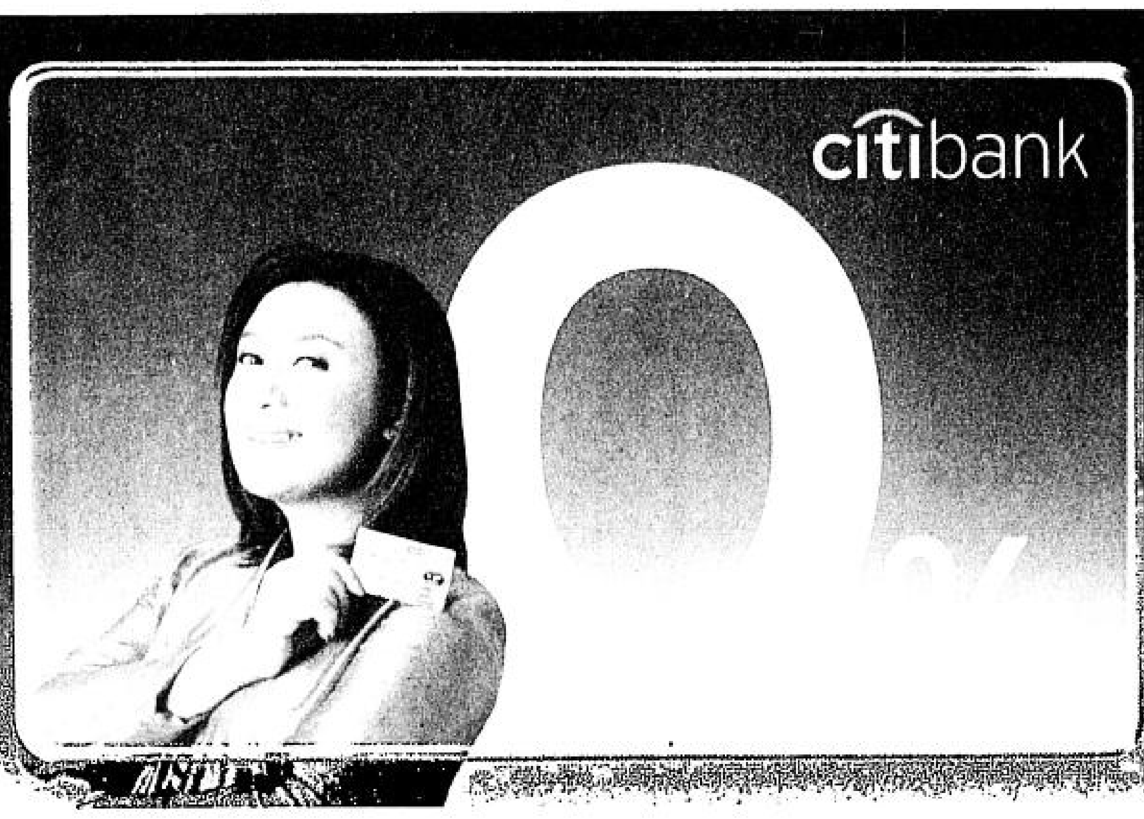

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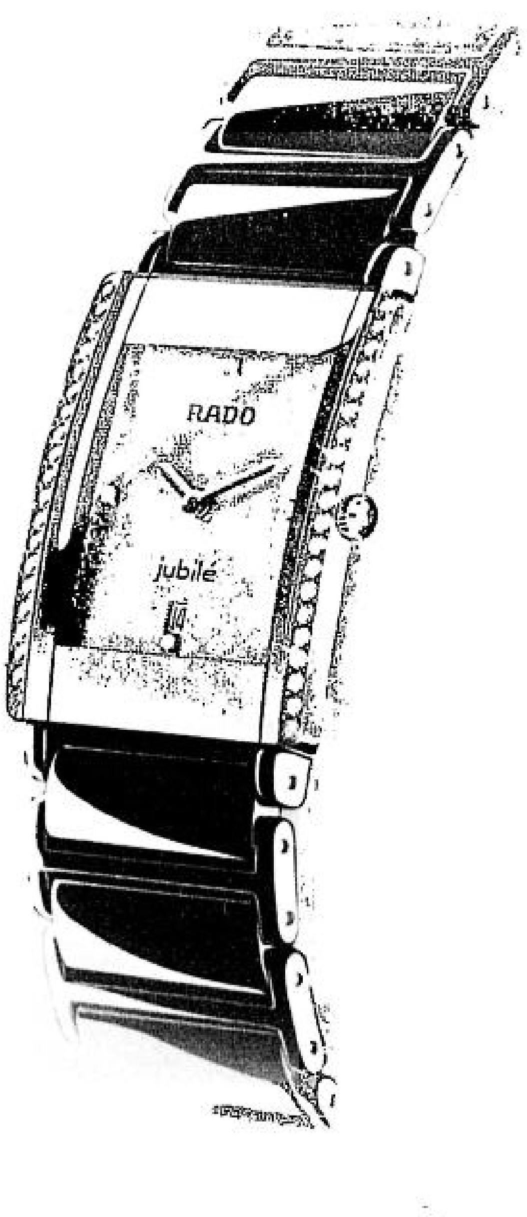

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Makeover times seven

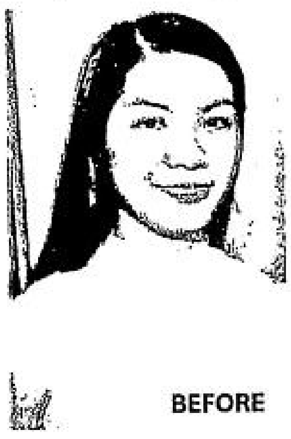
From page E1

Goldilocks in Greenbelt

By Gmeleen Faye B. Tomboc, 23

SEVEN of us 2bU! girls headed to Glorietta recently for a makeover.

At the Lucy Britanico and Frankie Salon in Glorietta, I asked for curly hair, Carrie Bradshaw style. I lost myself in a book while Fred Penales and company styled away with a curling iron. Then, with new curls in tow, I felt like Goldilocks (with black hair) as I sashayed my way to The Body Shop for makeup.


BEFORE

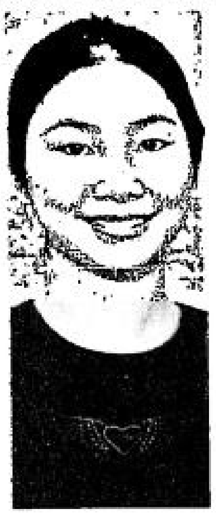
Afterwards, I checked my reflection in every shop window I passed, amazed at how a new hairstyle and makeup could make me feel like a totally different person.

To get Gem's look: Even out your skin tone with Ultra Smooth Face Base in 08 (P895). For the eyes, apply Eye Colour 27 Clover Pink (P396) all over your lid, followed by 06 Earth Brown on the creases. Next, apply blush in 03 Tea Rose (P500) with a big blush brush for a soft effect, then follow with a swipe of lipstick in 11 Plum (P396). Comb in Brazil Nut conditioning cream (P450) before curling your hair to avoid frizz.

AFTER

Please make me over!

By Kristine Ching, 22


BEFORE

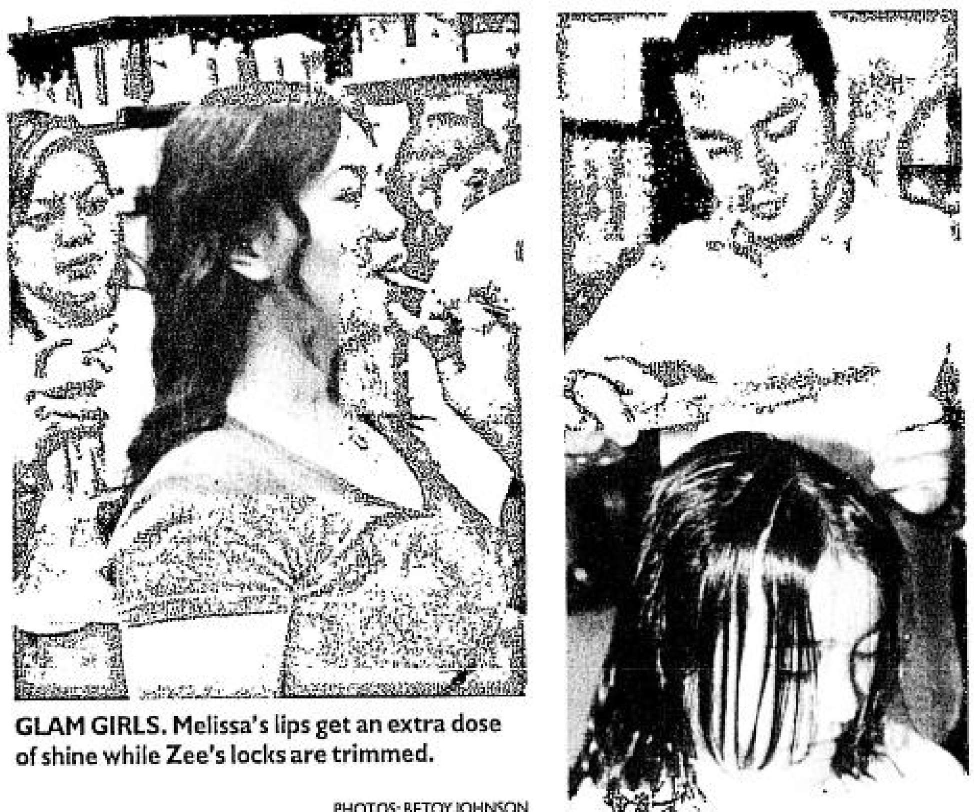
I CAN style clothes and all, but when it comes to hair and makeup, I'm as clueless as you can get. So, for 2bU!, off to a makeover I went with no any idea how things would turn out.

After taking my mug shot, er, "before" shot, Fred, the hair guru, straightened my slightly wavy hair before cutting it in long, textured layers. I thought I would have to iron my hair every day to maintain my new look, but I was wrong. The week after the makeover, everyone I knew was still raving about how good my hair looked.

At The Body Shop, the makeup artist decided that pink would look good on me for daytime makeup. She was right!

To get Kristine's look: After evening-out your skin with foundation and loose powder, apply Eye Shimmer in 01 Silver and Eye Colour 37 Pink Champagne (both P495) all over your lids. Keep the rest of your look simple with brow gel (P360) and a dab of tint (P295) on your lips and cheeks. To give your hair a similarly edgy look, try the Green Tea Fixing Gel (P295) for a bit of shine and shape.

AFTER


GLAM GIRLS. Melissa's lips get an extra dose of shine while Zee's locks are trimmed.

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

Magical makeover

By Melissa Telan, 21

BEFORE

I WAS told I would be sporting the "flirty" look for this makeover. I was glad, although I had no idea what "flirty" looked like.

I told Fred, the hairstylist, that I wanted my hair to look thicker and more luscious. Without another word, he started to work his magic. When I looked up from my reading sometime later, I had curled locks. I loved it!

At the Body Shop, I was a bit worried when the makeup artist started applying gray eye shadow on my eyelids, but when he was finished, I had to admit it complemented my eye color.

To get Mel's flirty look: If you have combination skin like hers, apply Oil- Free Face Base (P636) and dust it with pressed powder (P695). Get slightly smoky eyes with Eye Colours in 04 Granite and 11 Mushroom (P396). A light pink blush like Cheek Colour 02 Raspberry Pink provides just a hint of color without overpowering your eyes. Finish off with a shimmery gloss; try Lip Gloss Dots 05 Bilberry Juice (P300). Before curling your hair, prep with Amlika Leave-In Conditioner to minimize damage.

AFTER

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Grace M. Remo
Agency Manager

Standing (from left to right): Chere Madeleine B. Reyes, Lucy R. Zarate, Nelia B. Barbacena, Elaine P. Bautista. Seated (from left to right): Grace B. Gutierrez, Adolfo C. Remo

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Fusing Japan's old and new

Nitta Oyako brings the art of Tsugaru shamisen to Manila

By Cheryl Tiu
2bUI Correspondent

JAPAN has always been an invigorating fusion of old and new, as its unique culture and enduring religious ideals combine charmingly with its enthusiastic embrace of the modern world.

Its bustling and futuristic cities contrast strikingly with its scenic landscapes and pagoda temples. Kimonos are still worn, the Noh and Kabuki theaters are thriving, while ordinary Japanese are also decked out in sky-high platform shoes and hair colors of bodacious hues.

If this mélange of traditional and contemporary were to be encompassed by one musical instrument, it would be the Tsugaru shamisen. The shamisen is a 3-ft long, three-stringed instrument, closely resembling the banjo. It's often touted as the "Japanese guitar" and is played with a large pick called *bachi*.

It has evolved from being a contraption that accompanied folk singers in the 18th and 19th centuries to an instrument that has had significant impact in Japanese classical music and world music in general.

Tsugaru, a region of the Aomori Prefecture on the northern tip of Honshu, is characterized by harsh winters and heavy snowfall. Taking a cue from the blind musicians in the 1800s who visited and sang in farms and houses for food, the nomads of Tsugaru developed their own style for playing the shamisen at the time when written music was still non-existent.

Strong sense of playing

The Tsugaru shamisen today is traditionally louder, utilized for a stronger sense of playing mostly in festivals and larger performances.

When first heard, it automatically conjures images of historical Japan with its bluesy, stringy sound. But some of the country's modern-day musicians have tried the instrument and reinvented its sound.

Enter Nitta Oyako, the father-and-son duo of Hiroshi and Masahiro Nitta from the town of Sapporo, Japan. Hiroshi decided to become a professional shamisen player when he was in high school, and has been honing his talent for the last 35 years.

Aside from having received numerous awards and appearing in several Japanese television programs, Hiroshi has also founded a shamisen association (Kougen-ryu) to promote the instrument.

His son Masahiro began to take interest in the shamisen when he was in junior high school in 1998, after having witnessed his father's victory in the 1997 National Tsugaru Shamisen Competition. Within only seven months, he won the All-Japan Junior High/Senior High School Competition. He released two solo albums—"Sou" (August 2001) and "Yuki" (October 2002) prior to collaborating with his father.

In November 2002, the duo released their first album titled "Oyako" (Parent and Child). The album featured Japanese folk tunes mixed with pop and jazz covers.

FATHER-AND-SON duo, Hiroshi and Masahiro Nitta

THE MAKILING Ensemble will play with Nitta Oyako.

Manila concert

Nitta Oyako will be in Manila this weekend for a three-day concert titled "A Captivating Night of Tsugaru Shamisen," as part of the Japan Foundation Manila's thrust to foster an appreciation of Japanese culture among Filipinos.

The father-and-son duo will be performing with the Makiling Ensemble, a personal choice by Hiroaki Uesugi, assistant director of the Japan Foundation Manila, who saw similarities in their committed musicality and instrument-playing.

Performances will be at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) on Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. (invitational) and Oct. 24, 3 p.m. (free admission), as well as on Oct. 25, 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Manila's Captain's Bar (P1,100 net, inclusive of Japanese buffet).

Call the Japan Foundation Manila at 8116155 to 58 or the Mandarin Oriental Manila at 7508888 (local 2401); or 8199675.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

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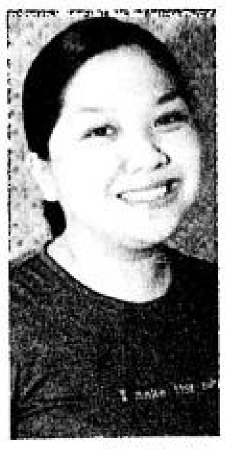

BEFORE

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

By Vanessa Arellano Doctor, 22

BEAUTY has a spectacular price. For our 2bU! makeover, we started getting our hair done at around noon, makeup was at 2 p.m, and we finished everything by 6 p.m. It had me wondering—was it all worth it?

Well, that night, my friends couldn't help but marvel at how I looked! It was fulfilling that, yes, with a few strokes of makeup magic and nicely ironed hair, I could look like a celebrity—even for a few hours.

To get Vanessa's sophisticated eyes, smoothen out your complexion with foundation and powder, then apply Eye Colour 17 Sky Blue (P396) on the lid and Eye Shimmer 09 Soft Black (P495) on the creases, then blend carefully to avoid the black-eyed look. Choose a neutral cheek color, such as 10 Sweet Nutmeg (P500), and swipe on a natural lip color like 06 Clover Pink (P500.) A bit of Beeswax Texturising Wax (P350) will help prevent flyaways if you have short hair like hers.

Banishing the hag

By Saleema Devi Refran, 20

WHEN I stepped into college, I made a vow to myself to have long hair. I had always had short hair (okay, except for this time in Grade 6 when I looked like a hag). But I think I overdid it. I thought my hair wasn't long enough.

So there, the moment I stepped into the salon, Fred was shocked. Yes, I haven't had a cut in a year! He thinned out my hair and chopped it to a much shorter length. Afterwards, he handed me a ball. A hairball. My hairball, and it was huge!

Without a mirror in front of me, I trusted makeup artist Marge to transform me. I was pleasantly surprised with the Beyonce-like look she gave me.

Thanks to Fred and Marge's magic, I was a hag no more.

Like Sam's look? Try Bronze It foundation (P455), followed by loose powder. Then smear Eye Colour 05 Burnished Brown on the lids and Eye Shimmer in 02 Gold (both P495) on the lids. A bit of Brush on Bronze (P850) on the cheeks helps highlight your cheekbones while Lip Shimmer Gold (P367) gives a sheer coat of color without making you look like a bronze statue. If you have frizzy hair, a little Grapeseed Glossing Serum (P395) after ironing your hair can work wonders.

AFTER

BEFORE

Better than before

By Bianca Consunji, 20

SOME time ago, I was made over for a magazine—I was pretty excited about it, and enjoyed having my hair and makeup done for free. But the results were less than spectacular—I looked better in my "before" photo!

Undaunted, I jumped at the chance to be made over with six other 2bU! correspondents.

BEFORE

Predictably, the hairstylists made a fuss over my extra-long hair. After some discussion, we agreed on a slightly layered hairdo, set with soft curls, which I had always wanted but couldn't seem to get. Three hours later, I had a cloud of curls on my head—a miracle!

Afterwards, I asked for green eyeshadow and bright pink blush; you know, the kind of makeup that'll make you look back 10 years afterward and smack your forehead, saying, "What was I thinking?"

Despite the trendy look, however, I enjoyed it. And this time, I can honestly say that I looked better in my "after" photo.

To get Bianca's look, mix Moisture Face Base (P636) with Glow Enhancer (P476) to get a dewy complexion. Then, apply Eye Colour 03 Golden Moss (P396) all over the lid, then line eyes with Eye Shimmer 08 Emerald. Follow with lip and cheek stain, then fill in your lips with Lip Colour 14 Pink Ginger (P396). To give volume and longevity to curls, rub in some Wheat Protein Volumising Mousse (P450).

AFTER

Hello, gorgeous!

AFTER

By Zee Castro, 21

GETTING a free 2bU! makeover was a chance for me to try something new. See, my hair has a mind of its own. It can be wavy, curly, dead flat or unruly any day, that's why I always wear it as a ponytail.

Snip, snip, snip, and there went my tresses. The result was a stylish, sassy looking 'do! Then, in the good hands of Argie, Body Shop's in-house makeup artist, my usually plain face got a welcome hint of color. Hello, gorgeous!

BEFORE

Zee's look is focused on her cheeks—after applying foundation (try All in One Face Base, P895), dab the Lip and Cheek Stain (P295) in tiny dots and blend well. Tone down the eyes with neutral colors such as Eye Colour 28 Soft Mauve and 05 Burnished Brown (P396) and wear a soft, natural glossy shade—Lip Colour 04 Shell Pink is shown here. Comb in a little Biloberry Leave-In Detangler so show off your waves (and not tangles).

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DUNKIN' DONUTS Classics 20/dozen

20 big hearts

Meet the finalists for the Best Student Volunteer search

By Pam Pastor

IT'S time to put the spotlight on big hearts and generous souls. For weeks, we asked readers to nominate college students who they think deserve to be named Best Student Volunteer.

We were on the lookout for individuals who have done what they could to make the world a better place, young people who have been pledging their hours to good causes, devoted students who are dedicated to service.

Entries poured in from different parts of the country. We were amazed, we were impressed, we were inspired.

It was a tough job but we were able to trim down the finalists to 20.

Oct. 24, Sunday, will be a special day for these finalists. They will be walking down the ramp at a fashion show directed by Ariel Lozada at VIP: Volunteer In Person. This whole-day affair at the NBC Tent celebrates the third anniversary of Hands On Manila.

The three best volunteers will be announced at this event. They will receive plaques and exciting prizes.

This event, which is sponsored by EON, Inc., Bench/HerBench, kiddieparty.com, will be a fun full-day celebration of the selfless act of volunteerism.

Celebrate the day with us. Join the special auction (you bid volunteer hours) and win exciting prizes (there are prizes for individuals and groups of five), play games and meet new people.

"Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals."—Dave Gynn

All nominees will receive gift bags. Nominees and finalists may call Maricar Abis at 8978808.

There will be a Hands On Manila orientation on VIP day at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Valerie Garde, 19

AB-BSE major in Social Sciences, University of Santo Tomas

VOLUNTEERISM experience: I volunteered for the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting during the May 2001 elections. Last December 2003, I also worked as a caregiver at Don Bosco Makati for the International Day for the Handicapped. My sister and I teach Math, English and Catechism in Tatalon Sto. Domingo every Saturday for Acquired Ready Assistance Learning (Aral) which aims to assist kids in public school. I am a regular volunteer every Wednesday and Friday at the Kythe Foundation.

I am most passionate about... taking care of children and making their life a better place to live in by teaching them or by making them happy.

I should be chosen as Best Student Volunteer because... I am not here to compete or be glorified for the things that I have done but instead I want to share my stories to all the people, especially the youth to set an example that we all can make a difference in other people's lives.

Jasmine Marie Elaine A. Duran, 17

AB Literature, Ateneo De Manila University

VOLUNTEERISM experience: At the age of 3, I started to work as a volunteer for the Mumunting Anghel ng Panginoon Foundation Inc., BF Homes Parañaque City, together with my parents. I was assigned to teach little children of my age group how to sing simple songs to Jesus and Mama Mary. I participated in all the medical missions that my parents organized. I also continued to be with the little angels of BF Homes. This orientation with the street children helped me a lot during the Festival with Mission Families held in 2002. In my third year of high school at San Beda Alabang, I organized the Interact Club of St. Benedict College, the youth arm of the Rotary Club of Parañaque Lakambini. Where there were calamities like fire or flood, I was there to help out in every little way I could. I also experienced reaching out to the medium-security inmates of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City. I volunteered to help and organize several activities for the Down's Syndrome Association of the Philippines, Inc. including the "Buddy 2 sa 22." Last summer, I joined the medical mission of the Christ Youth in Action in Infanta, Quezon. I also joined Ateneo's Alay ni Ignacio.

I am most passionate about... the alleviation of poverty by raising the standard of education.

Adrian Carlo Velasco, 21

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, De La Salle University-Manila

VOLUNTEERISM experience: In high school, my first experiences were engagements in a special children's center and the New Bilibid Prison. In college, my exposure toward marginalized sectors increased through the guidance of the Center for Social Concern and Action (Cosca). This center concentrates on advocacies in various Filipino communities. I have rendered my services in activities for urban poor families in Metro Manila, street children and families, special children, the Aetas in Bataan and drug rehab patients in Bulacan. Today, we are establishing a new organization for the youth, Sigaw Org. This will be an essential tool in elevating human consciousness and in promoting the talents of young people.

I am most passionate about... the intellectualization of all Filipinos, most especially the youth, as the best way to regain our moral compass.

I should be chosen as Best Student Volunteer because... of my work to uplift Filipinos' social consciousness. This recognition will gain awareness for my advocacy.

20 BIG HEARTS/ F2

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Lou Sabrina S. Ongkiko, 19

**BS Biology, Ateneo de Manila University
(nominated by her father Herman Ongkiko)**

VOLUNTEERISM experience: I am an active member in the Alay ni Ignacio (ANI) program of the Ateneo De Manila University, a summer instructional program that teaches and organizes school activities for public high-school students. I am now the assistant principal for Volunteer Formation, responsible for the preparation and formation of ANI volunteers from the Ateneo. I have also joined the Special Olympics, a sports-oriented program for the mentally handicapped. I help organize and train special kids in athletics, fun runs and in other sports activities. During school breaks, I volunteer as a member of the teen missionaries under the Youth for the Third Millennium. And for my debut, I opted to to make a play for poor kids to celebrate my 18th birthday. It was titled "Ang Bata at ang Irago." The moral of the play is for children to fight for their dreams and to keep on aiming for a better future.

I am passionate about... the education of the youth—not just in academics but also in the education of their hearts. Volunteerism is an opportunity for me to share the love that I have in my heart.

I should be chosen as Best Student Volunteer because... I saw how volunteerism made my life richer. My passion for volunteerism is relentless, and I will continue to be involved in activities that would touch as many lives as possible.

Ryan Anthony Bestre, 20

**Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science,
Benguet State University (nominated by Ilene Basitan)**

HE has been a regular volunteer of Pine Tree, a non-government organization established by Michael Bengwayan, also an environmentalist. Located in La Trinidad, Benguet, the organization responds to the needs of the community and students regarding research in environment and conservation. He and other Pine Tree volunteers have conducted cleanups around Balili River and initiated tree-planting in different areas of La Trinidad.

He has also influenced some members of the Mountain Collegian, official student publication of Baguio State University of which he is associate editor, to participate in Pine Tree activities. Despite a hectic schedule, he is a volunteer youth bible study teacher of his church, Midtown Church of Christ.

He is most passionate about... the environment. He always wanted to study Environmental Science, being so passionate about caring for the environment and nurturing it for the future.

He should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... he is a consistent honor student, president of the Young Environmentalists Society, editor in chief of KaliCasan (official student publication of the College of Arts and Sciences), outstanding writer, good citizen, action man, God-fearing, optimist.

MARK (second from right) in one of his volunteer stints

Mark Dean del Rosario Itaralde, 19

**Bachelor of Arts Major in Political Science,
Far Eastern University**

VOLUNTEERISM Experience: I participated in Pista'y and Kagueban, a yearly tree planting program of the City Government of Puerto Princesa, in 1998. I became involved with Far Eastern University's Young Volunteers of Today (now Tamaraw Volunteers or Tamvol) which will be assisting in the Medical Mission to be conducted by ABS-CBN Sunday TV Mass workforce. I participated in the projects for Home of Joy orphanage and Hands on Manila-affiliated Organizations, Museo Pambata and Habitat for Humanity. At that time, I was the public relations officer of the organization. Now, being president of the Tamaraw Volunteers, I led my coworkers in the activities such as the Christmas party we had with Concordia Children's Services, volunteered at the water station for the GMA Fun Run 2004, "Tulong sa Baseco," house building for Gawad Kalinga and the recent 19th Coastal Cleanup. We are now in the process of preparing a proposal on implementing solid waste management in FEU and tying up with the FEU-Institute of Arts and Sciences Student Council for a program "FEU Tamaraws Care for the Tamaraws," primarily having the goal of helping the preservation of the Tamaraws in Mindoro. I am also one of the appointed coordinators of the United Nations Children's Fund. I am also the Youth For Christ-FEU Socio-Political/ Gawad Kalinga head.

I am most passionate about... children. I really like interacting with them.

Lorraine Marie S. Item, 19

Public Health, University of the Philippines-Manila

LORRAINE with a Mangyan family

VOLUNTEERISM Experience: I started with the program for the street children of the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod-Manila, a volunteer program of the University of the Philippines. We visit an institution for street children weekly to teach them artistic skills. Since I intend to pursue medicine after graduation, I also became an emergency-room volunteer, also under Pahinungod. After a year, I joined their Summer Immersion Service Program, a three-week immersion in rural communities. I was assigned together with two other volunteers in Malpalon, Mindoro Occidental where the assimilated Mangyans are. We assisted in the on-going programs implemented in the community. I just started joining their Cupfeeding Program and Hospice Care Program. As a Public Health student, I also join the medical missions conducted by our college. I am also involved in the Gawad Kalinga project of Couples for Christ being a Youth for Christ member. During the first half of this year's first semester I served as a facilitator and volunteer in an NSTP class. Every week, we went to Baseco, Tondo to help build houses.

I am most passionate about... poverty. Like what a friend once said, if our poor brothers also have the same opportunities as we do, they may even do better than us.

I should be chosen as Best Student Volunteer because... I don't just volunteer, I serve. I am not only a student but a real Filipino who considers the welfare of her country in the plans and dreams she pursues.

Lloyd Abria Luna, 22

**BS Electronics and Communications Engineering,
Polytechnic University of the Philippines**

VOLUNTEERISM experience:

I am most passionate about... I founded the Network of Campus Journalists of the Philippines (NCJP), a proactive, value-driven, impact-oriented and program-based organization of young journalists in the country. Volunteerism is what NCJP is all about. In 2002, I was absorbed by the Office of the President in Malacañang' Youth Affairs Office as a volunteer. I was involved as a resource person and trainer-facilitator during the Leadership Training and Team Building Seminars and "Konsultahang Kabataan sa Nayon at Paaralan." I established the Students Network of the Philippines. Other programs include SOAR 2004; 1st NCJP National Leadership and Team Building Congress; Tik Tak Vote, NCJP National Elections Countdown 2004; National Recruitment Program; Biyahe, the educational tour of young writers; Voice of the Writers, aimed at dzME 1530 Khz; Pasyal, the gimmick and fellowship of young writers; Kapihan, a roundtable discussion of campus and social issues; Gintong Mamamahayag Awards. These were all free of charge—planned, implemented and evaluated without pay.

I also established a volunteer-oriented organization of young journalists in different continents called the Network of Journalists International. Through this group and my volunteer efforts, I made it as the youngest International Journalist to cover the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... the award in general would give me a deeper experience on how it feels to be recognized as a volunteer. The award will pose a continuous challenge for me. Recognition come and go but the impact of sharing one's life to other people in any part of the world will surely stay.

Victa Joanna M. Garde, 20

**Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Science Major in Social Sciences,
University of Santo Tomas**

JOANNA helping build a house

VOLUNTEERISM experience: The first major volunteer job I got involved in was when I joined the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV). I decided to be a pollwatcher in 2001. Another project that I got involved on a national level was when I volunteered to be a marshal in 2003 at the World Meeting of Families held in Luneta. My job was to assist local and foreign visitors in having a safe and comfortable time during the main event which was held in Luneta. I also volunteered to take care of handicapped children in Don Bosco Makati during the celebration of the International Day of the Handicapped in December 2003, and became a volunteer of Habitat for Humanity, twice. During my vacant time, I go to the charity ward of UST Hospital, children's section. I am also a volunteer of Kythe, a group that comforts terminally ill children and their families. In school, aside from having a double major, I am also the president of UST Social Sciences, as well as a member of a group called Aral. I teach kids from public schools Math, Science, English and Catechism on Saturdays.

I am most passionate about... education. It is the main tool for the transformation of our society.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... I would not be honest if I say that I don't want to win this contest. Anyone who takes time out from their hectic college schedule just to be able to lighten up the load or ease the burden of their neighbors deserves to be honored. I believe that being chosen as one of the top 20 college volunteers here in the Philippines is an honor. Winning this would make me the happiest person. I joined this contest in the hope that I could inspire or encourage all the people out there especially students to help in every way they can to make the lives of the people around them a little better.

Jason E. Abello, 23

Medicine, University of the Philippines

VOLUNTEERISM experience: *Ngayon, ako ay* volunteer *ng* Community Medicine Foundation at UP Pahinungod. *Sa mga nasabing* volunteer programs, *ako ay naging isang imersionista, nakikipamuhay sa kapwa* Filipino *upang mas maintindihan ang kanilang kalagayan. Maliban sa pag-aaral, inaatupag ko rin ang pagiging* vice-president externals *ng* Regionalization Students Organization ng UP College of Medicine. *Mithiin nito na bumalik ang mga* graduates *ng* UP *sa kani-kanilang probinsya. Nagsasagawa kami ng* fora *na ang mga* speakers ay established doctors *sa ibat-ibang rehiyòn. Inaayos din namin ang* networking ng mga graduates at elective *ng mga estudyante upang sa rehiyon sila maglingkod. Sa taon na ito, ako din ang kumakatawan bilang pangulo* ng Kalusugang Sangay ng Agham ng University of the Philippines. *Tinataguyod namin ang pagtuturo tungkol sa kalusugan. Naniniwala kami na mas mainam na maiwasan ang sakit at ma-*empower *ang mga tao na maging responsable sila sa kanilang kalusugan.*

I am most passionate about..: Health Education and Primary Health Care (Kalusugan)

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because: *Ako ang estudyanteng* volunteer *na nakipamuhay kasama ang mga* Mangyans sa Mindoro Occidental, *sumisid ng karagatan at nangapa ng hipon sa Masukol Bulacan. Sa simpleng pamumuhay, naging prin-*

20 bi

: Indonesia's Playgroun
a thousand things to do
a thousand reasons to come

IVAN with Indonesian students

Ivan Glenn B. San Buenaventura, 19

**BS Computer Science, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig
(nominated by Lovely Linan)**

VOLUNTEERISM experience: I hold three student organizations in the university: founder and director-general of Unesco Youth PLPasig which advocates peace and youth empowerment; convenor of Amnesty International PLPasig which works for human rights and international solidarity; and vice president of Leo Club International which addresses civic issues and humanitarian programs. One time, as part of Lions Club International (mother organization of Leo Club) project, I was one of the volunteers for the Feeding Program of urban-poor children held at Pasig Cathedral. November last year, a fellow student leader and I hosted a tripartite dialogue with Burmese (Myanmar) refugees and Amnesty International. December of last year, I represented my university in Malacañang Palace for the Anti-Drug Campaign of the government. I was also chosen one of the organizers of the "Himagsik Campaign" that gathered some 20,000 youth and multi-sector groups in denouncing drug abuse. I conceptualized the text program for the President of the Philippines and proposed the opening of the 117 line for text reports on drug abuse. I have also helped organize the Philippines' Human Rights Celebration. I have traveled to Malaysia as the Official Philippine Delegate to the International Conference on Drugs and Young People, and was the Official Philippine Delegate to Singapore in the "Lakbay Aral Program."

I am most passionate about... human rights and youth Empowerment.

I should be chosen as Best Student Volunteer because... I have dedicated my life to serving the youth and trying to make a difference, at the same time having good grades in school. I empower the youth by getting them aware of their rights and their role in nation-building and international understanding.

Arden Cecilia Gonzales, 20

**Bachelor in Secondary Education major in SPED,
University of the Philippines- Diliman**

VOLUNTEERISM experience: Arden Gonzales is the present vice president for External Affairs of the University of the Philippines Sandigan. As Externals VP, she takes charge of the organization's external activities which include institution visits and public high-school tutorials. She also coordinates with the organization's scholars.

Arden also headed UP Sandigan's coordination with Habitat for Humanity in its house-building project in Amadeo, Cavite last June. Arden is also a volunteer sitter in Cribs (Creating Responsive Infants By Sharing, Found), since 2003. She was also one of the organization's volunteers who visits institutions like Golden Acres, Bethany Girls' Home, He Cares Foundation, Children of Joy Foundation, Tahanan Santa Luisa and House of Refuge. Last September, Arden was a speaker in the UP Sandigan's Alternative Classroom Learning Experience on "Tutoring Tutors," a discussion on teaching techniques and passion of volunteer tutoring. She's a volunteer tutor for slow-learners at Krus na Ligas High School.

She is most passionate about... socio-civic causes.

She should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... nobody can measure up with her contributions as volunteer in a number of social service projects she has worked with and organized.

Leo Ernanie Tindoc, 21

BS Physical Therapy, Mariano Marcos State University, Batac, Ilocos Norte (nominated by Tajon Myrel)

HE was a member of the Community Extension Program, an organization of student volunteers willing to share their time and effort on Saturdays to reach out to less-fortunate communities. On Sundays, as part of the school curriculum, he helped teach catechism to children in our barangay that, until now, they still (call him) *Kuya*.

For two years, he was president of the Integral Youth Ministry of our parish. One of the [annual] activities [during] his [presidency] was the Love Offering every Christmas. The ministry [solicited] donations and other gifts [for the] less-fortunate barangays.

His leadership [abilities] were [further] oned when he moved to college. He is a good leader. Even as a neophyte, [when he was] elected class president, he served as a liaison between his classmates and their instructors.

In his first year in college, he became a member of the Physical Therapy Student Organization and was elected freshmen representative. He volunteered to help in the health awareness campaign of the organization and, until now, is still involved in the campaign.

During his second year, he was elected as the PT department representative in the student council. He proposed to the school administration to allow tricycles, the primary mode of transportation in the [university], to enter their college grounds. The College of Health and Sciences was isolated from the rest of the [campus] and had a different gate. His initiative paid off. Transportation is no longer a problem in their college.

In third year, he was elected vice president of the college student council and treasurer of the university student council. [Among other things], he volunteered to make the first step to withdraw the Student Organization Fund, which had been left idle for five school years.

He was elected president of the college student council in his fourth year. He continued to serve his college and the university, [particularly] the clean and green project.

Now on his fifth and final year in college, he is a PT intern in different hospitals in Manila. Every month, he moves from

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sipyo ko ang maglingkod na hindi umaasa ng kapalit. Ito na marahil ang pinaka-essence *ng isang* sincere na volunteer.

Presidential Scholar ako ngayon ng UP. Dahil sa scholarship na ito, libre na ang aking tuition sa paaralan at napapagaan ko na rin ang gastusin ng aking mga magulang. Masasabi ko na marami na akong utang sa bayan at sa mga Pilipinong nagpapaaral sa akin. Ang 1,300 pesos na monthly allowance ko sa scholarship ay buong nilalaan ko sa mga kawang-gawa namin sa organization na hindi alam ng aking mga kasapi. Marahil kailangan kong ipaalam sa inyo na ang perang maaring mapapanalunan ko ay gagamitin ko rin sa mga kawang-gawa ng aming organisasyon at ang mga gift items (school supplies) ay kailanganin namin sa "Pencil at Paper Drive" namin sa Mangyan Mission. Nag-aaral ang mga Mangyan sa gabi subalit sinusuli nila ang kanilang lapis tuwing gabi kasi nawawala daw nila ito. Kaya't ang mga regalo nyo po ay malaking tulong sa pagpapatupad ng aming kawang-gawa.

Ang karangalan din ay makakapagbigay inspirasyon sa aking kasamahan na may katuturan ang aming ginawa. Mahirap ang maging leader at volunteer kailangan mong magbigay sigla sa ibang tao na may pag-asa pa at magtiwala nito. Ang inyong karangalan ay magbibigay sa amin ng lakas ng loob upang itaguyod pa ang health education. Maraming salamat po.

g hearts

Darwin R. Bandoy, 21

ctor of Veterinary Medicine, University of the Philippines–Los Baños

LUNTEERISM experience: I was secretary of the Values Integra- and Promotion-Civil Welfare vice. Some of our projects includ- medical missions, college en- nce reviews, tutorials, informa- n technology projects and sponships.

I am most passionate about... moral recovery of the youth.

I should be chosen as Best Student Volunteer because... I am a leader and my being chosen the Best Student Volunteer would be the success of the entire organization. This will also promote our activities and guide potential volunteers and donors. While doing all my volunteer work, I maintain good grades, with a general weighted average of 1.4375.

aphael Camilo M. Castillo, 19

Political Science, University of the Philippines–Diliman

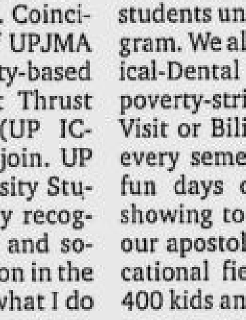
LUNTEERISM experience: During my first year, I joined the UP Ju- r Marketing Association. Coinci- ntally, some members of UPJMA ong to another university-based anization, UP In-Christ Thrust University Students (UP IC- S). They invited me to join. UP Christ Thrust for University Stu- nts (UP ICTUS) is a duly recog- ed, non-profit religious and so- -civic student organization in the mier university. Here's what I do der its aegis: give two hours tu- ing Grade 5 and 6 students of is na Ligas Elementary School d San Vicente Elementary School ring weekdays (Tutorials Aposto- e); three hours every Wednesday rning giving play-therapy to pa- nts of the Philippine Children's dical Center (PCMC under Com- nity Service Apostolate); three urs also during Wednesday morn- s teaching Catechism to Grade 4 dents of Krus na Ligas Elemen- y School last year and Grade 1 dents this year (Catechism Apos- ate); 4 hours every Saturday rnings helping the children of vatas whether in supplementing reviewing the lessons they rned in their formal schools, or plementing a literacy program in ocations areas in Montalban be- e and now in Bagong Silangan ildren's Literacy Program under mmunity Service Apostolate); and financial and spiritual support to 4 college and 3 high school bright students under our Scholarship Program. We also give at least one Medical-Dental Mission to far-flung poverty-stricken areas, Orphanage Visit or Bilibid Visit in Muntinlupa every semester; Christmas parties, fun days or sportsfest, free film showing to the children of each of our apostolate areas; and free educational field trip to more or less 400 kids and many more as long as I went to every apostolate and activity as long as I didn't have classes, exams or conflict with other important appointments, making me the Best Applicant of my batch and the Best Member the semester after. A year after I entered ICTUS, I became a member of the Executive Committee as the Tutorials Coordinator, mainly responsible of all activities under the tutorial apostolate. And this year, I was elected as the chair.

I am most passionate about... children.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... volunteerism brought out the best in me. ICTUS developed in me the sense of being a man for others. Knowing that I'm doing something to make this world a better place to live in gave me the inner strength and motivation to succeed in my fields of interest.

atrina Frances M. Domingo, 18

Philosophy, De La Salle University–Manila



LUNTEERISM experi- ce: My first exposure at Fundacion de las nas Filipinas in Paco, nila served as my eye ner. I dealt with kids at narin, Caloocan by tu- ing them every week. er three months, I am ppy to see the fruits of labor. With the help of nds On Manila, I joined breakfast club project at Ray of pe Foundation in Sucat. My sched- allowed me to go once a month I there we shared breakfast and in- acted with kids. I carried out my ire to contribute through the Stu- t Council in my school. I am able to join different projects sponsored by the Student Council of street kids now and then.

I am most passionate about... children and poverty.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... I have always believed in doing something good and productive without expecting anything in return. I feel that maybe, just by sharing my story, my experiences, someone out there will be inspired to take a step towards the betterment of other people's lives in one way or another.

ital to another and has been an the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center de Manila University, AFP Medi- r, Hospicio de San Jose, Philip- ebral Palsy Inc. and, currently, octor's Hospital.

vs see his passion in treating his I believe his warmth, somehow omote the patients'] recovery.

most passionate about... the ecially the children.

He should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... my friend has always [rendered] service to other people, not only his friends, family, schoolmates but [even strangers]. Many times, his efforts and sacrifice were unrewarded and even unnoticed.

Being chosen as the Best Student Volunteer will be the best reward he can ever receive, his sacrifices will have paid off.

Froilan G. Grate, 21

Education, University of the Philippines–Diliman

I FIND fulfillment in my volunteer work. It is nice to go home knowing you have done something that day; that you have touched people's lives. My past volunteer experiences include: house building for Habitat for Humanity as a member of the UP Pahinungod, medical mission and gift giving as a member of the ABS-CBN Foundation Volunteer, gift giving and story telling to kids as a member of the UP Praxis and Volunteer for Clean Air Youth Forum-Center for Environmental Awareness and Education.

Currently, I am an active volunteer of the Young Professionals' Network for Earth Friendly Action (YPNET), an urban-based environmental advocacy volunteer group. Our projects include Linis Barangayan: Tayo nang Mag-segregate. Volunteers go to a barangay and clean the streets and *estero*. A talk on waste segregation follows. Residents can also donate or sell their recyclables.

I am now organizing two volunteer groups: Students' Alliance for the Environment (SAFE-Philippines) and the GreenMinds Interactive. SAFE-Philippines aims to organize and get students and student organizations involved in environmental issues while GreenMinds hopes to provide access and use of technology by giving free web design services to non-profit organizations, especially environmental non-government organizations.

I am most passionate about... the environment.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... Volunteering, especially in more than one organization, requires a considerable amount of time. However, although I have to work now to support myself and my studies, I make sure that I have enough time for volunteerism.

I believe I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because I may be able to inspire others—(let them know) that no matter how busy they are, with dedication and commitment, (they can still get involved in) worthy causes.

Marvin Fuenconcillo-Delfin, 20

College of Nursing, Western Mindanao State University

I'M THE SANGGUNIANG Kabataan chair of our barangay. Since high school, I engaged in, spearheaded and enjoyed different organizational activities (as) a leader or a member. At present, I'm in a number of university and community organizations. From numerous volunteer experiences, two I think were the best experiences—as a Namfrel volunteer and Tzu Chi Foundation Volunteer.

My clinical instructor selected five volunteers, including myself, for a medical mission in a deprived upland barangay. It was a fulfilling experience. It was not just about applying the skills, knowledge and attitude acquired from the academe but a real life-changing experience that inspired life-long dedication to serve humanity.

I am most passionate about... social awareness.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... I have a big heart and want to serve people and correct their erroneous way of life. I'm a dedicated and committed follower and leader in my school and community. I am not a good writer. Neither can I dance or sing but I can serve. I don't talk much but I do a lot. I am true to others and myself. I want to be an example of our present generation. It is not how big or small my contribution is, it is the willingness to serve.

Danielle Anne Rubinos, 20

AB Philosophy, Ateneo de Manila University

AS external vice president of the Ateneo LEX, one of the school's few accredited student organizations, I am in charge of our Responsible Citizenship projects: Balik-Laya Jail and Prison Service, Bantay Sakdal and Bill-making Contest. The first two projects promote responsible citizenship through justice while the last through democracy.

I improved the Balik-Laya concept by also including economic (i.e. selling their products), recreational, and medical aid especially to children in conflict with the law in the Medium Security Compound of the National Bilibid Prisons, and by strengthening the tie-up with the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service and Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

Our project was named Most Outstanding Project in the Ateneo VP's Awards for Service and Excellence. It was also first place in the Responsible Citizenship Fair organized by the University of Asia and the Pacific, and sponsored by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia, National Youth Commission, and World Bank Institute.

This year, I started the Bill-making contest, which advocates responsible youth citizenship and good governance.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer because... I make seemingly impossible projects possible. Some of our leaders weren't able to push beyond their limits (they needed more willpower, more determination, more foresight) to turn these pioneer youth projects into reality.

I was given the power as an officer, and I (decided) to be of a different mold, to not be a traditional leader, to think outside the box, and do what I'm supposed to do. If I let myself be discouraged by (pessimists), our projects wouldn't have been possible. No one else could have done them. I knew I could do them, so I volunteered, led my fellow officers and youth to set up and improve the foundation of projects that are bigger than life.

20 BIG HEARTS/ F4

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Schedule of Activities
8 AM - Registration
9 AM - Mass
10 AM - Community Games
12 NN - Lunch/Start of Silent Auction
1230 PM - Best Student Volunteers Fashion Show directed by Ariel Lozada
2 PM - Badminton Clinic by Weena Lim
4 PM - Live Auction
6 PM - VIP Closing Number

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➤ Cellphone
➤ A photo shoot with Raymund Isaac
➤ A styling session with Jenni Epperson
➤ A tour of MTV with Sarah Meier
➤ Trip for two to Boracay
➤ Karaoke session for 10 with Vina Morales
➤ Private movie party for 50 at myCinema
➤ Laptop

Give a BIG HAND to the following for giving VOLUNTEERISM a hand UP! Bench, Eon Inc. (the Corporate Communications Network), kiddieparty.com, Themeworks, Mirant, First Gen, Asian Spirit, Boracay 357, True Value, Digital Exchange, The NBC Tent, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 and Joey 92.3.

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THE TOSP community: the finalists, alumni and organizers pose for the camera.

Outstanding bunch

By Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

This year's 10 Outstanding Students of the Philippines will be recognized in Malacanang Palace on Oct. 22

OPEN to all private and public graduating university students, the 10 Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) is a nationwide search for young people who excel not just academically but also exhibit good community involvement and social responsibility anchored on nation-building.

The annual project of RFM Foundation Inc. in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Makati Central, the Commission on Higher Education and National Bookstore, has counted among its previous awardees former Education Secretary Raul Roco, lawyer-broadcaster-TV host Ricardo Puno Jr. and Miriam College president Patricia Licuanan, to name a few.

This year's 30 finalists emerged from 357 nominees and were announced recently at a welcome dinner at the Richmonde Hotel. It was also an occasion for the finalists to meet each other for the first time. The awarding ceremonies, in which 10 winners will be announced (each one of them receiving a P20,000 cash prize), will be held at Malacañang Palace this Friday, October 22.

TOSP is not merely an award, though. It is a vision- and-values-based program. "What makes us different from other awards is our alumni formation," TOSP coordinator Flor de Guzman explains, "It's a formation process where we humanize the achiever, handle challenges of the community and work for our future together as a TOSP community."

1998 TOSP alumna Pamela Asis

The alumni are asked to contribute to nation-building activities spearheaded by the foundation.

1998 TOSP awardee Pamela Asis says, "When I received my trophy, I said to myself, 'This is now the start of your commitment to nation-building. Being a TOSP awardee is a testament of what this country can be. I have to work with other people toward 'community-building efforts."

Asis and the other TOSP alumni serve as mentors to the finalists, and they also run the formation process based on the triangular framework that TOSP is built on: academic and professional excellence, leadership and social responsibility.

TOSP's mantra is "Learning, leading and serving for life." This is the goal student awardees have to commit themselves to once they join the distinguished roster of TOSP alumni.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique @yahoo.com

TOSP 2003 finalists Romulo Antonio Adduro Jr. and Jaymie Claire Ang host the welcome dinner.

WELCOME DI ER
2004 Ten O nding Studen ilippi
Octob 04, 7:00 p.m Hote

TOSP finalists Rockwell Bennet, Warly Remegio, Vanessa Christine Lacuesta, Alexander Edward Drilon and Amie Marie Flores

20 big hearts

From page F3

Mikhail Jurell G. De Vera, 20

BS in Business Administration, Major in Human Resource Management, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

VOLUNTEERISM experience: 2001-2003—Student Volunteer, Social Action Office De La Salle-Zobel; involved in two medical missions in Laguna and was a volunteer facilitator for Kamp-Tugon, an environmental awareness camp for children from our partner center. From 2003-present—Student Volunteer, Social Action Office De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. I became a Science teacher, Science chair and principal for the Innovative Education Program. I was the head of the documentation committee of Alay sa Bata 2003. I was head of logistics for DMT Medical Mission. I was a participant for the International Coastal Cleanup, DMT Mass Casualty Incident and Summer of Service 2004.

The cause that I am most passionate about is... education. I believe that education is the key to the progress of our society.

I should be chosen as the Best Student Volunteer... so that the social action volunteers will finally be able to have an identity and stand out. The sad reality is that our organization is but a shadow in our campus. Few people know about its existence and our programs and services. If I will be ever chosen, my fellow Benildeans will finally be able to recognize our organization so that they too may be able to exercise the Benildean Core Value of being socially responsible.

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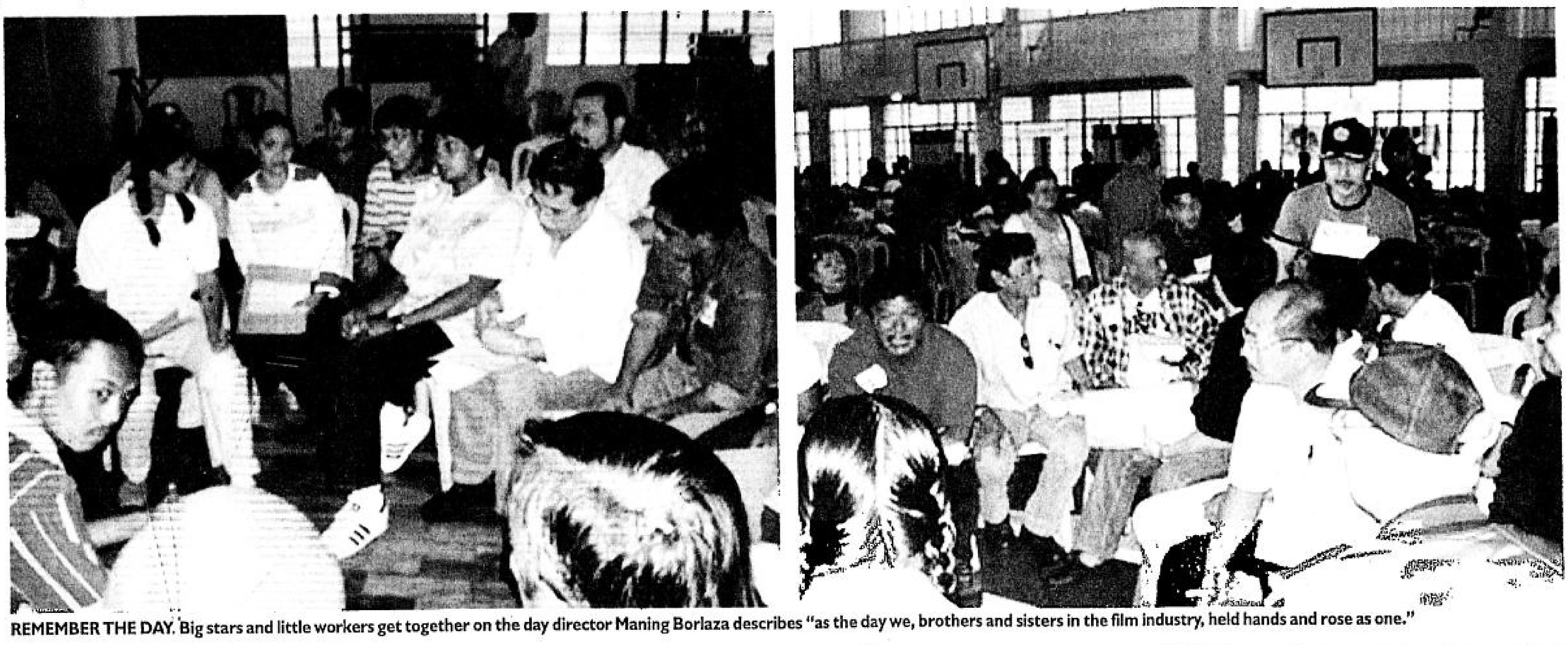


REMEMBER THE DAY. Big stars and little workers get together on the day director Maning Borlaza describes "as the day we, brothers and sisters in the film industry, held hands and rose as one."

'We will prevail,' industry workers vow

By Nini Valera

IF YOU let the film industry die, you take away the song of the nation.

This is what former Pangasinan congressman Oscar Orbos told a congress of movie industry workers last Sunday in an inspirational talk meant to rouse them into taking steps to protect the industry.

"Who will tell our story if we let the film industry die?" Orbos said in his speech. "Foreigners will be left to do the telling. They will tell our story on HBO, CNN."

That scenario would not be in the picture if director Joel Lamangan and other industry leaders succeed in forming a sector for the local movie industry.

"I am so happy, it's actually happening," Lamangan told Inquirer Entertainment during a break in the activities at the congress held at the Amoranto Multi-Purpose Hall in Quezon City of the newly formed Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

Attended by at least 700 movie industry workers, from legmen to superstar Vilma Santos, the congress also elected 15 people from the industry workforce representing the actors, directors, screenwriters, technical staff, checkers and bookers, talents (also known as extras and stunt men), utility men and the runners.

In an earlier interview Lamangan said "the movie industry is the only industry that is heavily taxed that does not have representation."

"There is a need to develop a whole sector for the movie industry to be able to protect people that make up the industry," Lamangan said. "As a non-governmental organization, it would be able to lobby Congress for tax breaks, limiting of foreign films, taxes, all of these. As such, this sector would fight for the industry, and would be seen as an economic force."

Losing the magic

One after the other, representatives of the various groups that make up the industry spoke on stage about the problems the industry is facing.

First on the list is globalization, which accounts for the glut of Hollywood films in the market, followed by piracy, high taxes and censorship.

"Little by little, the Filipino movie lost its magic," said director Maning Borlaza in his speech. "With the sinking profits at the box office, producers have cut down on production costs. The result: a collision of low-budget local films with giant hits like 'True Lies,' 'Titanic,' 'Harry Potter,' 'Gladiator.' As this was happening, the pirates continued their attack on the industry."

Borlaza pointed out that the number of unemployed movie workers continue to rise by the day. He said that this year, only 50 films might be produced, compared to 400 foreign releases.

"Who is happy?" he asked. "Let's blame no one. If I point my finger at someone, four of my fingers are pointing at me."

He noted that the industry could work together to lessen the attacks on it by Hollywood films and heavy taxation. He said the industry should work at lessening the number of foreign films shown in the Philippines without breaking existing laws.

Date to remember

"We cannot just stand and watch and say nothing," Borlaza said. "We should organize, hold hands until we can form a sector whose voice would be heard."

He said Sunday, Oct. 17, 2004, when the group was formed, "will be written in history of Philippine movies as the day we, brothers and sisters in the film industry, held hands and rose as one... And in one voice we say, the industry has problems, we will solve them. It is sick, we will nurse it. It is down, we will raise it. The load is heavy, the obstacles plenty. But God is with us. I say hail, we will prevail. We will prevail, we will prevail."

After the speeches, including one by film critic and film professor Bienvenido Lumbera read by Richard Gomez, the representatives of the various groups went up on stage to report the problems they face.

MAYOR Vilma Santos reduced by 50 percent the amusement taxes on movies shown in her city

Baldo Marro, representing the stunt men who risk their lives jumping off tall buildings or walking on fire, lamented the lack of insurance for this group of workers. He recalled an incident during one shooting where two stunt men suffered severe back burns, but the producer had only wanted to send them to the hospital by passenger jeepney.

"Thank God for Phillip Salvador, the star of the movie," said Baldo. "He told me to call for an ambulance and he would foot the bill."

"But more than the hazard pay," said Baldo added, "the film workers are asking for their basic rights, like equal treatment in terms of food on the set, just and prompt payment for their services, among others.

"The small people of the industry are always shortchanged," said Josie Tagle, a talent coordinator and a character actress. "They are the last to be fed, the first to arrive on the set, the last to go. Sometimes, when the scene in which they should have been part of is not shot, they would be sent home without even transporta-

'WE WILL/2

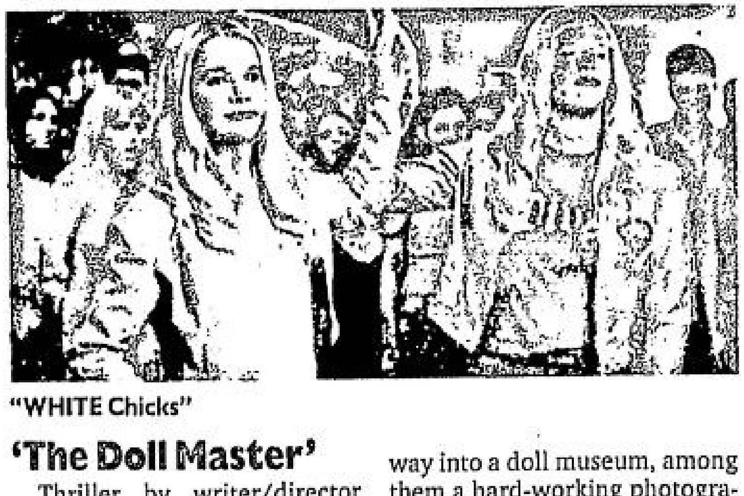
RICHARD Gomez will use his influence to talk to people who can help the industry.

ERIC Quizon's concern is to generate more projects so workers will continue to have jobs.

Opens today: Rescue by cell phone, ancient secret, debutantes and a heist

'Cellular'

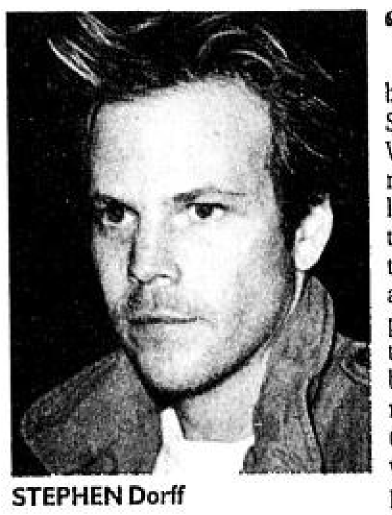
Kidnap-for-ransom action. The blurb says: "The most powerful weapon is in your hands." This refers to rescue by cell phone, of course, although in these parts, that mobile instrument could lead to your kidnap instead. In any case, this movie has been described as a "pleasant surprise." Although nothing new, the action scenes are effective because they are well-placed and well-timed. Acting not spectacular but "very well-done." At least, one review says, you don't pray for the characters to die so you don't have to see them anymore. The same review's parting shot: "You can actually get into this flick."



"WHITE Chicks"

'The Doll Master'

Thriller by writer/director Jeong Yong-gi revolves around a "terrible" ancient secret that continues to haunt present-day Korea. Five people find their way into a doll museum, among them a hard-working photographer, a scheming sculptress, and a wild high school coed. Either it's a less-than-welcoming destination for a field trip, or a less-than-agreeable guest list. Not one of them is sure to get out of there alive.



STEPHEN Dorff

'White Chicks'

Critics frothed at the mouth, but box offices in the United States happily sang and danced. What's with the title? Is it racist? Sexist? Reviews sidelined these questions in favor of the more basic: "What were they thinking?" A pair of FBI agents go undercover as over-privileged white debutantes to thwart a kidnap (seems like big business out there, too). You must get past the fart jokes and the guys' gal makeup if you want to have some fun and appreciate the gender-reversal premise. Said to have been inspired by the Nicky and Paris Hilton reality freak show, but a bit more entertaining.

'$teal'

A master thief employs extreme stunts to get the goods. In his posse is a hard-as-nails bad girl, the requisite clown, and the good ol' reliable back-up man. The quartet mounts the biggest heist of their career. So what's new? They are subsequently blackmailed into splitting their retirement fund—or risk exposure. So... what's new? An irate review notes spectacular stunts that serve to redeem "side-splittingly bad dialogue and acting that would make a porn star blush." Curiously, critics totally absolve lead actor Stephen Dorff, on account of his "enigmatic appeal."

KIRK Douglas

Palm Spring visitors now have to go through Kirk Douglas

PALM SPRINGS, California—Actor Kirk Douglas will never be forgotten in this desert city, where he lived for more than 40 years.

The Palm Springs International Film Society and International Film Festival honored the 87-year-old star of "Spartacus" Sunday by naming a six-block stretch near the city's airport after him.

"Every individual coming in and out of Palm Springs will go through Kirk Douglas Way," said Earl Greenburg, festival chair, who also announced that Douglas will receive the film festival's lifetime achievement award on Jan. 8.

Douglas lived in Palm Springs for more than four decades.

His son, Joel, moved to the city two years ago and began a drive to name the street after his father.

The dedication ceremony was attended by Douglas, his wife Anne, and their three surviving sons, including Academy Award-winning actor and producer Michael Douglas.

Also present at the dedication ceremony were US Congresswoman Mary Bono, the wife of the late Sonny Bono, who started the film festival as the city's mayor; crooner Robert Goulet; and Jack Valenti, former head of the Motion Picture Association of America. *AP*

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 CELLULAR	1 CELLULAR	1 SHARK TALE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 WHITE CHICKS	1 THE PUNISHER
2 WHITE CHICKS	2 WHITE CHICKS	2 LADDER 49	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 CELLULAR	2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 THE DOLL MASTER	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 CELLULAR	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	3 TWISTED
4 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	4 LADDER 49	4 STEAL	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 LADDER 49	4 SHARK TALE
5 SHARK TALE		5 THE DOLL MASTER	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW	5 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
		6 WHITE CHICKS		
		7 SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 LADDER 49
2 WHITE CHICKS

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
ANSON'S APPLIANCE EXHIBIT (ongoing until October 21) GOLD'S GYM EVENT October 23	89.9 POCKET CONCERT October 23 MTV Fashionista Model Search October 24	ST. BENEDICT'S UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION October 21, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm) PIDO (Thu), TAKE ONE (Fri), THOR (Sat)	SPANISH FESTIVAL: FLAMENCO JAZZ October 22, Greenbelt 3 Park

Onstage

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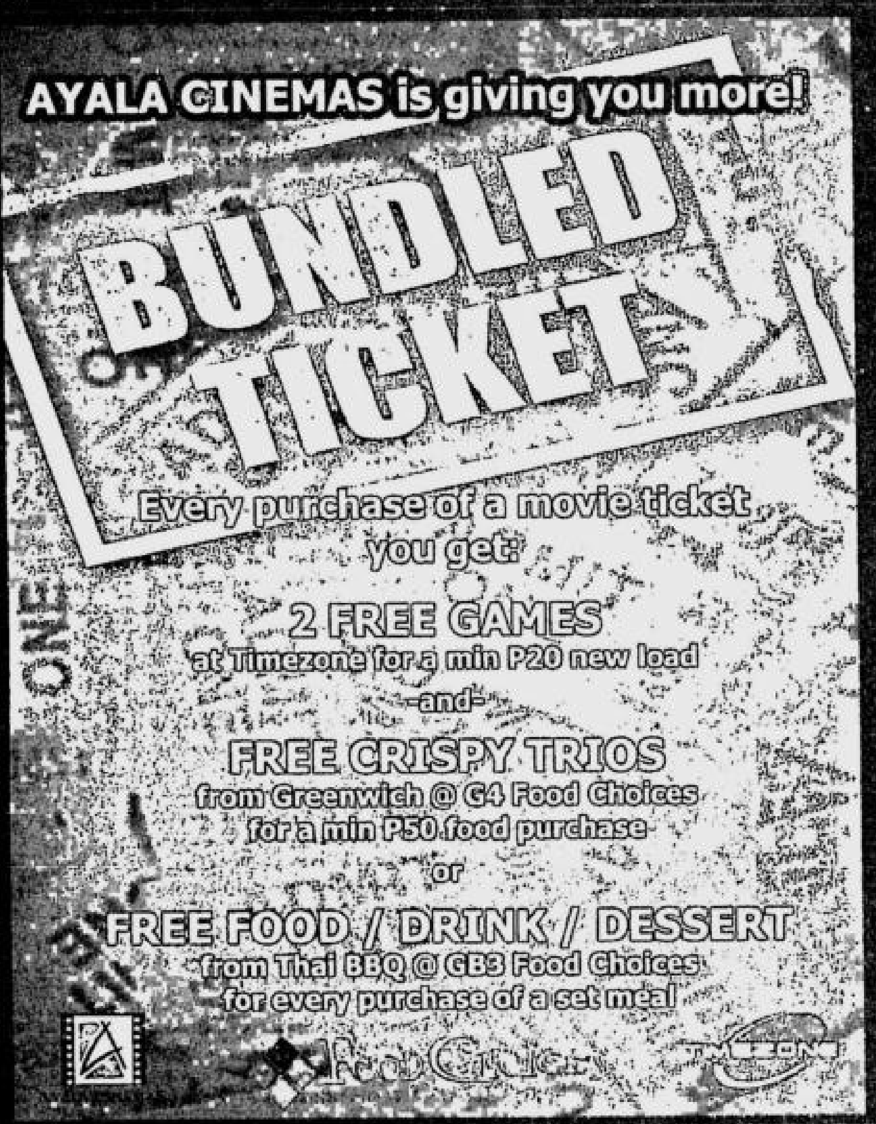

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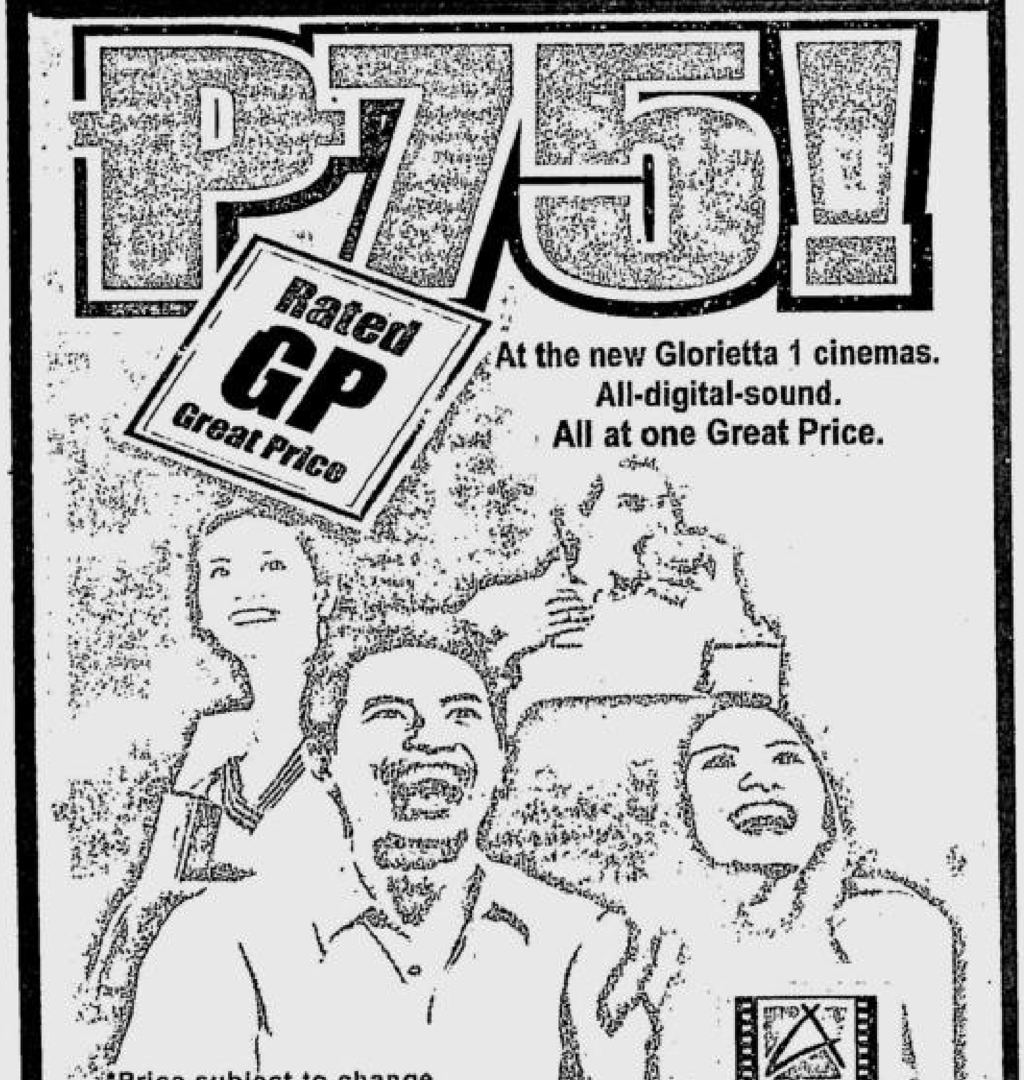

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LADDER 49
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I what to watch I

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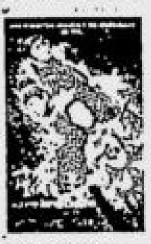
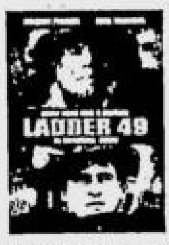
1 THE HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
12:10 FS/ 12:40 MF/ 3:15/ 5:50/ 8:25/ 10:25 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 1:00 END

2 LADDER 49
12:10 FS/ 12:40 MF/ 3:15/ 5:50/ 8:25/ 10:25 LFS/ 11:45 LMF/ 1:00 END

HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 8
SM City Southmall Cinema 10
SM City Fairview Cinema 9
SM Tutuban Cinema 4
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM City North Edsa Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 4





LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Southmall Cinema 4
SM Tutuban Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 12
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM Fairview Cinema 11
SM Megamall Cinema 11
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM City Southmall Cinema 10
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4

THE PUNISHER MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 12
SM Megamall Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 12
SM City Southmall Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 10

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM City North Edsa Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 9
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Southmall Cinema 2

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 3
SM Tutuban Cinema 1
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4
SM City North EDSA Cinema 5
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM City Fairview Cinema 4

THREE MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 10
SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 7
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
SM City Fairview Cinema 10
SM City Southmall Cinema 9

BOURNE SUPREMACY MTRCB Rating R 13	SM Megamall Cinema 5	SM City Manila Cinema 12	
FENG SHUI SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING	SM City Manila Cinema 9 SM City North Edsa Cinema 3 SM City Fairview Cinema 6	SM Megamall Cinema 8 SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 1	SM City Southmall Cinema 7 SM City Tutuban Cinema 3
RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating R 13	SM City Manila Cinema 5 SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3	SM City North EDSA Cinema 1 SM Southmall Cinema 6	SM City Fairview Cinema 5 SM Megamall Cinema 10
WIMBLEDON SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING	SM City Manila Cinema 11	SM Megamall Cinema 12	SM City Fairview Cinema 1

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'We will prevail,' industry workers vow

From page 1

tion money. Where's the justice here?"

Crafting laws

Addressing the gathering, actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, resplendent in a red cheongsam blouse, said her support for the industry will always be there until the day she dies.

She pointed out that as a mayor, she is unable to craft laws that would help the industry. "But I reduced by 50 percent the amusement taxes for movies shown in Lipa," she said.

Speaking in Filipino, Vilma said her husband, Sen. Ralph Recto, is aware of the plight of movie industry workers and would be pushing laws that would benefit them.

"I am here because it is about time that we put a face to the movie industry," Vilma said in her speech.

Actor Eric Quizon, who is also a director, said his main concern is to generate more projects so that the industry workers will continue to have jobs.

"We can unite everyone," said Quizon. "It's also a venue to voice out what the industry people want to say."

Richard Gomez said he would be using his influence as a movie actor to talk to people who could help the industry.

All brothers

"If we are united, we might have the chance to survive this downtrend," said Gomez. "We need reforms in our industry. We need to influence the government to implement reforms in the industry: taxation reforms, censorship reforms, standardization of talent fees. I don't want the time to come when we would only be making 10 films a year. More people would lose jobs, and that's a very bad scenario."

The success of the movie industry as a sector still looms in the future. But to screenwriter Bibeth Orteza, just seeing two directors from the rival groups Directors Guild of the Philippines and the Kapisanan ng mga Direktor ng Pelikulang Pilipino together on stage "is already a major achievement."

Orteza was referring to directors Lamangan and Willie Mayo, who shared the stage as moderators.

"Before, you wouldn't see directors from one group working together with directors from the other group," she said. "When push comes to shove, those in the industry become brothers."

Actor Christopher de Leon summed up the event on a bright note: "Well, we've reached rock bottom, so there's no way to go but up."

Nyoy, Mannos back with Beatles

"SALUTE" AGAIN. Nyoy Volante (upper left corner) and Mannos return to Music Museum

IT'S back to memory lane tonight starting at 9 p.m. at the Music Museum as Awit Awards winner Nyoy Volante and Mannos perform in a repeat of their successful show "NV & M Salute the Beatles."

Notamannos Productions brings back the show featuring the music of John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney.

Lister to classic Beatles tunes like "Here Comes the Sun," "Hey Jude," "Drive My Car," With A Little Help From My Friends" and "Yesterday" performed by Nyoy together with Cocoy Aranas on bass guitar, Glenn Dalit on k-ḥon, Jerome Nuñez on violin and Maynard Albis on bongos.

Presented by Globe Telecom, "NV & M Salute the Beatles" is sponsored by Levi's, Kit Kat, Nestlé Ice Cream, Hanford Phils., Patepco and Manila Bulletin.

Direction is by Ernie Duque.

Proceeds of the show will benefit the depressed children of Guimaras Island.

For tickets and inquiries, call Music Museum, 721-6726, or 0927-4106385.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	SKY CAPTAIN	12:50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm
4	SDDS	LADDER 49	1:00 pm 3:40 pm 6:20 pm 9:00 pm
5	dts	FLYING DAGGERS	12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm
6	Dolby	SHARK TALE	12:10 pm 2:20 pm 4:30 pm 6:40 pm 8.55 pm
7	Dolby	FENG SHUI	11:35 pm 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

Oct 20	SAN MIGUEL vs SHELL 7:20 pm
Oct 24	GINEBRA vs SHELL 6:30 pm
Oct 27	FEDEX vs COKE 7:20 pm
Oct 29	RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL 7:20 pm
Nov 3	ALASKA vs STA LUCIA 7:20 pm
Nov 6	AND1 MIX & PBL ALL STAR GAME
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	LADDER 49 / SHARK TALE / FLYING DAGGERS / SKY CAPTAIN
PREMIERE THEATRE	SHARK TALE

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MASARAP ANG UNANG KAGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LADDER 49
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-6	WAG KANG KIKIBO (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LADDER 49
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
CINEMA-12	THREE
CINEMA-14	SHARK TALE
CINEMA-15	OPEN WATER

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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1	SHARK TALE	10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 10:00	GP
2	LADDER 49	12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40	PG 13
3	SKY CAPTAIN	10:35, 1:05, 3:35, 6:10, 8:35, 11:05	
4	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGER	11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30	PG 13

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- Flying Daggers
- Resident Evil 2

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LMF : 9:30 PM (PG-13)

② SHARK TALE
FS 12 PM 2 PM 4 PM 6 PM, 8 PM
LMF : 10 PM (GP)

③ SKY CAPTAIN
FS 12 PM, 2:30 PM, 5 PM, 7:30 PM
LMF . 10 PM (GP)

④ HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
FS 11:20 AM, 2 PM, 4:40 PM, 7:20 PM
LMF : 10 PM (PG-13 with Caution)

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FS: 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM LMF 9 PM (GP)

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WIMBLEDON PG13 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:25, 9:40	SHARK TALE GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	SKY CAPTAIN GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS PG13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	SHARK TALE GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 LADDER 49 PG 13 7:25, 9:55	LADDER 49 PG 13 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - P 81 - MON. TO FRI.

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CINEMA	FILM	TIMES
1 THX	LADDER 49	1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
2	LADDER 49	11:20, 2.00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3	THREE	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
4	SHARK TALE	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
5	SKY CAPTAIN	10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00
6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
7	OPEN WATER	12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40
8	FENG SHUI	12:40, 3:00, 5 20, 7:40, 10:00
9	RESIDENT EVIL 2	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10	WIMBLEDON	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00

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ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

CINEMA	FILM	TIMES
1	SKY CAPTAIN	1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:00
2	OPEN WATER	10:30, 12 20, 2:10, 4:00, 5 50, 7:40, 9:30
3	LADDER 49	1:40, 4.15, 6:55, 9:40
4	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	10:10, 12:30, 2.50, 5:10, 7:30, 9 50
5	SHARK TALE	10:20, 12:15, 2:10, 4.05, 6 00, 7:55, 9:50
6	THREE	1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40
7	RESIDENT EVIL 2	10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:25, 9:40

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

CINEMA	FILM	TIMES
1	WIMBLEDON	11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
2	RESIDENT EVIL 2	11:30, 1:50, 4:20, 6.40, 9:10
3	FENG SHUI	11:00, 1.00, 3:00, 5.00, 7:00, 9:00
4	THREE	12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00
5	SKY CAPTAIN	11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7.50, 10:30
6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:20, 1.40, 4.00, 6 20, 8 30, 10 30
7	LADDER 49	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5 10, 7:30, 9:50
8	SHARK TALE	10:50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6 50, 8:50, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31

CINEMA	FILM	TIMES
1	LADDER 49	11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
2	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
3	FENG SHUI	11:00, 1:20, 3 40, 6.00, 8 30
4	THE PUNISHER	1.00, 3 30, 6 00, 8 30
5	SHARK TALE	11:00, 1.00, 3.00, 5:00, 7.00, 8:45
6	THREE	12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15
7	SKY CAPTAIN	10:15, 12:45, 3.15, 5 45, 8.20
8	RESIDENT EVIL 2	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8:25

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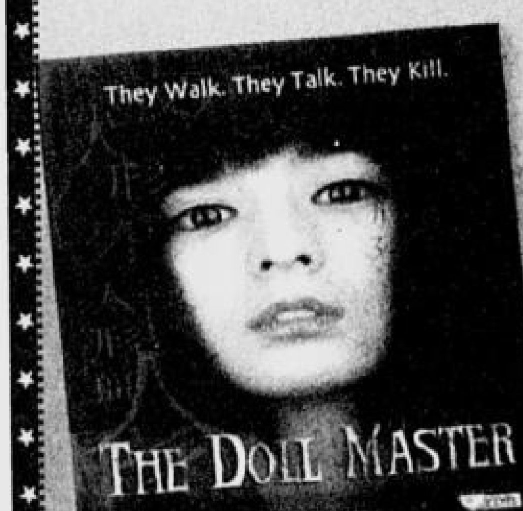
CINEMA	FILM	TIMES
1	SHARK TALE	10:30, 12:30, 2.30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
2	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:10, 1.30, 3 50, 6 10, 8 30
3	THE PUNISHER	11:10, 1:30, 3 50, 6.10, 8 30
4	FENG SHUI	11:10, 1:30, 3 50, 6:10, 8 30

CAINTA 240-4661

CINEMA	FILM	TIMES
1	SHARK TALE	10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
2	LADDER 49	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40
3	THREE	11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00
4	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6.00, 8.20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Lav Diaz 10-hour film 'will excite cinephiles,' Variety predicts

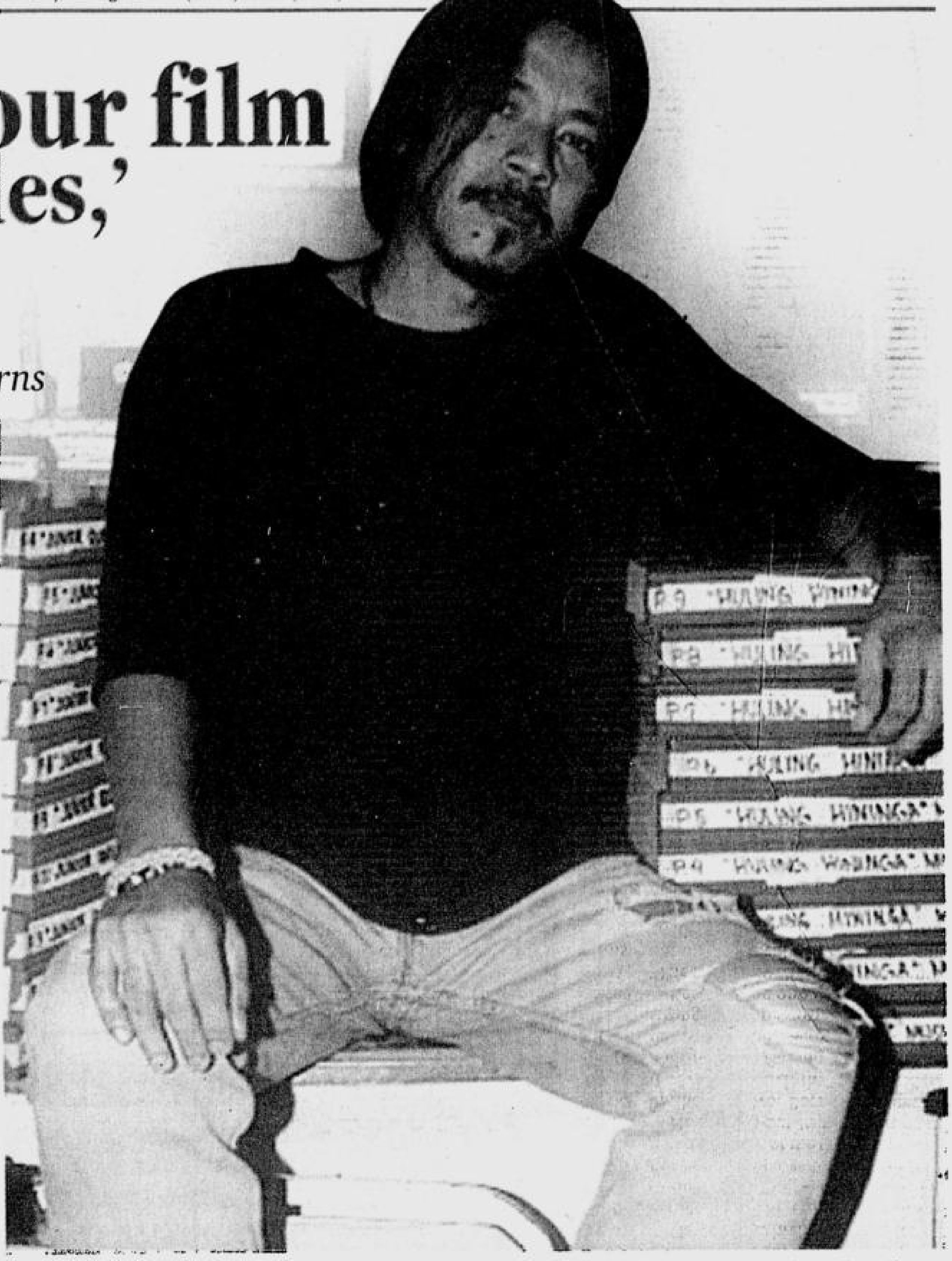
'Evolution' needs cleaner final print, reviewer warns

SHOW STOPPER

A FILIPINO movie that runs for 10 hours caught the attention of critics after its recent screening at the Toronto Film Festival—enough to land a lengthy, detailed review in Variety magazine, considered the bible of the entertainment industry worldwide.

"Evolution of a Filipino Family" by Lav Diaz was cited for its "uncompromising and austere seriousness" and "starkly modern devices."

Variety's Robert Koehler predicted that the movie would "excite international cinephiles at the most daring fests and showcases."



JUST RIGHT. Diaz's movie, says the reviewer, "justifies its extraordinary length with an approach that will recall ... vestiges of Bela Tarr, Samuel Beckett, Frank Norris and William Faulkner."

Made over nine years in black-and-white video, "Evolution" is twice as long as Diaz's acclaimed "Batang West Side." The Toronto screening allowed a single 10-minute intermission.

Even so, Koehler noted: "It justifies its extraordinary length with an approach that will recall, for Western viewers at least, vestiges of Bela Tarr, Samuel Beckett, Frank Norris and William Faulkner."

'Packs a wallop'

"Evolution" methodically chronicles the collapse and hopeful revival of a poor farming clan, a scenario meant to symbolize the nation's history from 1971 to 1987.

It precedes Diaz's 1999 debut pic, "The Criminal of Barrio Concepcion." And yet, Koehler said, "there is no visible sense of the cast aging incongruously before viewers' eyes." Rather, he added, the cast members grow older "ever so gradually."

Koehler likened watching this cinematic aging process to "slowly turning the pages of a photo album." At the point when the central character Raynaldo (Elryan de Vera) has grown from child to near adult, "the full power of Diaz's unusual shooting method packs a surprising wallop."

The critic was apparently well-versed in the Pinoy penchant for intense action and melodrama. But he said Diaz successfully balanced these with a tale containing major incidents separated by long stretches of time, and punctuated by musical interludes and actual footage of past political events.

He concluded that the mix was deliberately designed "to go against every cliche of standard Filipino cinema."

He was obviously enamored of Diaz's "startling asides containing stunning images," although he realized that these would mean far more to Filipino audiences than to foreigners.

The Variety review made special mention of a sequence that revolved around a TV interview with the late filmmaker Lino Brocka (actually done years ago by Diaz).

- Koehler accurately gleaned that Brocka's call for an activist Filipino cinema attuned to the poor and the marginalized was "Evolution's" emphatic credo.

He had the highest praise for the actors as well. Since the dramatics are drained away, he said, the cast does not act as much as it "assumes a behavior in front of the camera."

He singled out Pen Medina as the antihero Kadyo. Because the character "goes through the most incidents and takes up the most screen time," he said, the actor "leaves the strongest impression."

Koehler had one major misgiving. "The pic's only chance to build international critical support," he said, "will be with a cleaner final print. The copy unspooled at the Toronto fest lacked sound for minutes at a time, and the mix itself was extremely rough." He pointed out that many early scenes set at night and lit only by fire or torches "are almost black."

The rave review ended with a speculation.

Koehler wrote: "In a post-screening discussion, Diaz sounded like Wong Kar-wai after the latter's Cannes preem of '2046,' hinting on one hand that he might shoot additional footage while stating, on the other, that this was the final cut."

German masterpieces at Greenbelt

THAT Germany is a breeding ground for movie legends is nothing new. It has produced such renowned directors as Ernst Lubitsch, Roland Emmerich, Wolfgang Petersen, Wem Winders and Werner Herzog.

Local movie enthusiasts will get a chance to see four masterpieces in an exhibition that forms part of the German Month celebration. The movies will be screened at Greenbelt Cinema 1 on Oct. 23 and 24.

The critically acclaimed "Lola rennt (Run Lola Run)" is among the four films. Before becoming famous in the Hollywood box office hits "The Bourne Identity," "Try Seventeen," and "Blow," Franka Potente played the lead role in this fast-paced film about Lola, a young German woman who finds herself in a 20-minute race to save her lover's life.

Combining animation, video, photography and other editing techniques, director Tom Tykwer explores events that fate alone controls. Giving the audiences three possible outcomes, the movie shows how every tiny and seemingly meaningless action can spell huge consequences. Cited in the Bavarian Film Awards, Venice Film Festival, and Sundance Film Festival, this must-see film will be shown Oct. 23 at 9 p.m.

Earlier, at 7 p.m., "Zugvoegel-einmal nach inari (Trains' n' Roses)" will be screened. The romantic comedy tells of Hannes (Joachim Krol), a lonely truck driver whose passion for trains and timetables sets him off on a trip. During his train ride, he gets involved with counterfeiters and falls for one of them. In the end, he learns that the shortest way to a destination may not be the most ideal.

"Das Leben ist eine baustelle (Life is All You Get)," to be shown on Oct. 24, 7 p.m., chronicles the romance between a mysterious street singer and a young man caught in a string of conflicts. Set in late '90s Berlin, the film deals with capitalism, AIDS and sexuality issues.

The perfect ending for the short fest is "Bella Martha (Mostly Martha)," also on Oct. 24, 9 p.m. It is about a 30-year-old chef whose monotonous, work-driven life is altered with the sudden arrival of her sullen eight-year-old niece, Lina. A tempestuous yet ultimately rewarding relationship is formed.

Fairs and More organized the exhibition in coordination with the German Embassy and ABS-CBN, Studio 23, ANC, Cinema One, Lifestyle Network, MYX and Goethe Institut.

"RUN LOLA RUN," by Tom Tykwer

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